

A SKETCH OF THE
Calamities & Persecutions

OF

RICHARD WILSON, Esq.

FORMERLY A

Member of the British & Imperial Parliament,

AND

ONCE A MAGISTRATE

FOR THE

COUNTY OF TYRONE.

Written by himself.

“ Duo modo hæc opto ; unum, ut moriens populum Romanum liberum
“ relinquam ; hoc mihi majus a diis immortalibus dari nihil potest ! alterum,
“ ut ita cuique eveniat, ut de republica quisque mereatur.”

DUBLIN : PRINTED BY JAMES BYRN, 74, FLEET-STREET.
1813.

PRICE 2s. 6d.

2

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RICHARD WILSON, Esq.

FOR THE

Magistrate of the British & Foreign

AND

ONCE A MAGISTRATE

FOR THE

COUNTY OF TYRONE

BY THOMAS

"The author has endeavored to present a sketch of the
history of the magistracy in the County of Tyrone, and
to show the progress of the law in that county from the
earliest times to the present day."

PRINTED BY JAMES WILSON, 10, ST. MARK'S STREET.

LONDON, 1841.

A SKETCH OF THE
CALAMITIES AND PERSECUTIONS

OF

RICHARD WILSON, Esq.

HAD the calamities I have been afflicted with, for these last five years particularly, had no consequences but personal ones, my anxiety to remain unnoticed would have withheld me from a public Appeal: but conceiving, that every man who feels an interest in the preservation of the constitution, or anxiety for the peace and prosperity of the country, to be deeply concerned in them, I should hold myself guilty of a dereliction, of the governing principles of my whole life, was I any longer to defer their publication.

A QUESTION will naturally suggest itself, “why I have so long delayed my relation, particularly as I had given, more than once, intimations of my design, to call the public attention to my case?” I reply—a disinclination to re-appear in print, either as a public accuser or a complainant—a hope that I might at least, induce government to protect me—a repugnance to introduce the names of some persons still dear to me, or reflect upon the conduct of certain very near connections, and the difficulty of bringing my narration down to any fixed period, as my persecutions in one shape or other, had scarce a moments intermission—indeed this objection still holds, but, I perceive, I must either give it up, or postpone my narrative, “*ad calendas græcas.*” Such persons

as are disposed to consider, "*The statement of the Penal Laws*," an uncalled-for work, (and such I hear there are,) will, I am persuaded, change their opinion of that able production, when they have gone through the following pages.—It is my determined resolution to abstain as much as possible, from personal reflections upon either of the personages, the Duke of Richmond and Lord Manners—who will make a principal figure in the narration of my sufferings.—I propose to give a mere statement of facts, which these two noblemen will have the candour to acknowledge, they are enabled to prove, *is not to be controverted*—I will not attempt to account for their conduct towards me—I shall leave that task for the public. Somewhat more than five years have elapsed, since I published a * Pamphlet, (a second one) relative to the "oppressions of the Roman Catholics in the part of the country where I resided,"—also "upon my own personal grievances, in consequence of my endeavours, as a magistrate, to afford them protection against an armed banditti, called Orangemen, and having acted with determined impartiality and inflexible integrity in my office." So far from my Pamphlets having the effect I had hoped for, the state of the Catholics became more intolerable, (and as my object now is to shew) my persecution more systematic and uncontrolled.

In the latter end of the year 1807, and the beginning of 1808, I had been obliged to be absent from the country for several weeks—I left the care of my place entirely to a person of the name of *Moore*, a man who had so completely wrought himself into my good opinion, that I considered him as a worthy exception to his brother Orangemen.—My reader will presently see how well justified I was in that exception;—upon my return home, I found my house and grounds not only had been neglected, but all my stock of provisions either for my family or my cattle made away with—every drawer in my house broke open, my linen, &c. stolen; my papers ransacked, and

* The reader is requested to keep the substance of these two Pamphlets in his mind, as the present one is properly, a continuance of the same subjects.

the servants (who were of *Moore's* choice) appeared both men and women, as if they had lived in a continued state of debauchery—when I remonstrated with *Moore*, he behaved in a manner so apparently penitent, so humble, so self accusing, that I not only forgave him, “but assured him of my future favour, if he would give up the society of the people who had *led* him into his late errors, &c.” When I look back, I confess I am unable to account for my infatuation, for none but an idiot, could have been hoodwinked in similar circumstances—but so it was.—*Moore* however, well knew, that matters could not long stand as they then were, and thought proper to desire his discharge for some time, ’till, as he had said, “he might feel that he merited my goodness to him;” I reluctantly complied. It may be thought that I have been too circumstantial in what passed between this man and me, but, the reader will soon see that this *Mr. Moore* is entitled to very particular notice.

ABOUT three weeks after *Moore's* quitting my house, I was roused from my bed, by an account of a havoc made in my plantations—when I went out, it may easily be conceived what my horror must have been, to find above five acres of thriving plantations levelled to the ground, and also, a fine young orchard in the same situation; and this too, after having my timber some time before, totally cut down and carried off!! as soon as I was able to arrange my thoughts, I wrote an account of what had happened, to the nearest magistrate; but, from former intercourse with him, I own I expected little from my application, and therefore, gave a statement of this devastation to the Lord Lieutenant.—I received the following consolatory and satisfactory reply:

April 20, 1808.

SIR,

His Grace the Lord Lieutenant has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you addressed to his Grace, on the 12th instant, and in answer thereto, suggest to you the propriety of swearing examinations. (I shall have occasion presently, on a much more serious

business, to shew the efficacy of following Sir Arthur Wellesley, now Lord Wellington's, " suggestions,") against the persons who you may have reason to believe committed the outrages of which you complain, and prosecute in the usual manner, &c. &c.

ARTHUR WELLESLEY."

To this letter I lost not a single post in making a reply, as near as possible, in the following words :

Owena Lodge, April 24, 1808.

" SIR,

" My replying to your letter of the 20th instant, I am to assure you, is not occasioned by any desire to lead you as the organ of government, into an irksome correspondence upon the various acts of atrocity, committed upon my person and property—the lawless state of this part of the country, and disgraceful conduct of its magistracy—my former representations on these heads to the Duke of Richmond, being, I conceive, sufficiently ample and important to excite a vigorous and impartial enquiry into them—no, sir, my present object is to notice the " suggestion," you are pleased to hold out " as the conduct I should pursue on the late outrage," I am apt to think, that the hurry of business did not permit you to reflect, that the adoption of your " suggestion," could not have afforded me any one real advantage, (as I formerly shewed) and at the same time would have subjected me to heavy expence, and encreased personal danger: the very magistrates (most likely) who took my examinations, (a proof of this I shall presently produce,) would have born testimony to the excellence of the characters of his accused Orange friends; their loyalty, honesty, &c. &c. &c. *They* would be dismissed with a panegyric, and *I* should have been saddled with an expence of perhaps, £300, (after being pillaged even to personal distress,) and probably told, " that any prosecution was malicious;" and, (as the *Dungannon Newspaper* of the 14th of this month, pretty broadly insinuated, that " I had

cut down the trees myself, for the purpose of loading an *innocent society* with an undeserved calumny!!” To which was added by the same *respectable* print, “that I had been the murderer of my father;” although when he died I was a boy, residing (for my education) in another kingdom.

“BE assured, sir, this would be the probable result of my complying with your “suggestion;” if you had *leisure* to enquire into the character of *Omagh Juries*, (I will, before I finish this Pamphlet say a word or two of the then Sheriff, and the perpetual, (almost, Subaltern in that office,) and their conduct upon matters of still greater importance than the destruction of my property you would find that *any thing* but justice, in that quarter, could be expected, by a prosecution of even the most flagitious Orangeman—a late acquittal of an * Orangeman, for the murder of a Roman Catholic, (not to speak of *four* others which I formerly adverted to, by an Orange confederation, in the space of *one year*, and in a confined district.) will confirm the truth of this assertion.

HAD the government thought proper to accept of my *pledge* “to prove” the facts I represented, and acted upon it, a few worthless individuals certainly might have complained, but, the prayers of millions would have been offered for its continuance.

“I CANNOT conclude without observing, that the devastated appearance of my place, induced me to attempt *covering its nakedness* in some degree, by a new plantation, of between three and four thousand trees, (about the number destroyed) On the very night of the day on which the plantation was finished, several of them at a distant part of the ground were taken away, and some cattle driven on the remaining ones, to tread down (which they did with happy effect,) what their owners were affraid, otherwise, so immediately to destroy.—And now, sir, I tell you I could fix upon the people who planned and executed this outrage. (I did so soon afterwards, in a formal manner, to a magistrate, and the issue of my in-

formation will form a charming corollary upon Sir Arthur Wellesley's "suggestion," as I nearly paid the forfeit of my life, for my adoption of it,) but dare not without an armed force, for protection, which government only could afford me.—Lord ———— was made acquainted, *more than a year since*, with "the avowed intention of ruining my place," for a reason which I leave his Lordship to explain; I am not permitted to divulge the means by which I became acquainted with this danger—I early informed his Lordship of it; *in another place* I adverted to it.*—His Lordship may now congratulate himself upon his pretended incredulity.—The concluding part of this letter is torn off the copy—but, Sir Arthur Wellesley is able to supply the defect, and has my permission, indeed my wish, so to do.

Signed,

RICHARD WILSON."

THIS letter remained unanswered, nor were any means adopted for my relief—the impunity which attended the last outrage, encouraged others of greater enormity—a deep laid plan of *Moore's* to murder me, to plunder and destroy my house, lay waste my lands, and burn down my farm houses—the first, as it appears, he failed in, but the latter parts of it were attended with complete success.

I AM to observe, that *Moore* was placed, by an Orange friend, upon his quitting my house, in one which had a commanding view of my grounds—from that moment he threw off all disguise, and, as it will be seen, pursued every means which human depravity could suggest, to execute the above plan; he attempted to murder me, by the following scheme:—He sent his wife to a place where I was overlooking some masons, who were building a bridge over a small river which runs through my lawn, she began to use the foulest language towards me, which it may be believed, I did not notice—finding she could

* At the Sessions.

not provoke me, even to speak, she then endeavoured to strike me, but this I avoided, by going behind the masons; in the mean time, (as it was afterwards proved) *Moore* lay in a potatoe furrow, with his firelock (for he is what we call in our blessed district, a *yeoman*,) presented towards me, waiting (as he afterwards confessed, or rather bragged) to see whether or not, his wife could provoke me to lay my hands upon her, in which case he swore, “he would have blown my brains out.” I am to observe, that tho’ *Moore* so placed himself as not to be in my view, yet, he was observed in the situation I have described, by two of my servants, and also, was seen to fire off his gun, when he found I would not quit the masons.

IN consequence of this last barefaced attempt to murder me, I thought no time was to be lost, to make an effort to secure myself from this monster, and accordingly set off to the nearest magistrate,—I described the whole to him, and told him the names of the parties who saw *Moore’s* situation, with his gun, and heard his wife’s abuse—I have now to remark, that I had been absolved from the secrecy I had been enjoined, as to the persons names, who, a year before, had vowed the destruction of my place, with the informer’s permission to bring him forward: (I am to premise, that the Magistrate above alluded to, previous to this last outrage, had been at my house, and taken examinations of a carpenter, who proved some acts of *Moore’s* robbery upon me, in the winter of 1807, before I had begun to suspect him,) This magistrate having heard my charges, deferred *signing* my examinations, *’till after dinner*, (I dined with him) after dinner he put off the business ’till the next day, (he kept me at his house that night as he said for the purpose,) he again put me off, saying “he would send for the parties and put them under bail;” he *did* send for the four original conspirators, and told them what I charged against them, *but did not put them under bail as he had promised*, or send for the informer, who could substantiate my charges—as to *Moore’s* business, he *sent for him about a month after his scheme to murder me*, and put him under bail, *to keep the peace for SIX MONTHS towards me*, taking his own

security, a relation of his wife's, and one of the principal hostile persons against me!! *never, however, taking notice of the robbery sworn and proved against Moore!* In consequence of this, as it appeared to me, improper mode of proceeding, I again wrote to the Lord Lieutenant, "relating to him the above facts, and the magistrate's conduct with regard to them, also, the state of pecuniary distress to which I was reduced, through the eternal depredations committed upon my property, and which had totally disabled me from pursuing the sort of remedy his Secretary had suggested to me;"—that in addition to all this, the magistrate (mentioning his name) having acquainted the conspirators with what I had charged them, *without putting any sort of restraint upon them*, had inflamed them still more against me, &c. &c.

Not receiving any answer to this letter, I again addressed the LORD LIEUTENANT as follows:

"Owena-Lodge.—July, 1808:

"MY LORD,

"I DID not think I assumed too much in expecting your Grace would have noticed my Letter, of the 19th of last month—I have fatally been mistaken, the magistrate against whom I complained, never acted upon my charges, though founded upon affidavit, 'till this day, (a month after my complaint,) when he sent for the man who had attempted to assassinate me, and upon whom, he, the magistrate, had found different articles, of which I had been robbed—the facts proved upon oath, with the addition of strong, circumstantial evidence, of other robberies committed by him, to the amount of upwards of one-hundred pounds.—The man (one *Moore*,) appeared before the magistrate, Mr. —, who took security, for keeping the peace towards me, for SIX MONTHS, his own, with two others, *one* of whom was actually one of the persons whom I had already charged before him, as having conspired with others, to destroy my place! The first time I had been abroad, (since I was compelled to take sanctuary in the house of a truly reverend friend of mine,

on account of the threats which I had been informed, were to be put in execution on that day, (July the 12th,) I was overtaken on the road, about a mile from my own house, by the assassin, *Moore*, "returning" as he said, "from the magistrate's, after giving bail to my charge;" he used every means to provoke me, by the most abusive language, in order, I am persuaded to warrant, (as he afterwards, I am told, confessed) his employing a bar of iron he carried "to batter out my brains," all he could provoke me to do, was to shew him a pistol, and declaring "that I would defend myself"—for I never dare go through even my own grounds, without being well armed—this had so far effect, as to keep him at a certain distance, but he dogged me so long, that I found it necessary to take shelter in a cottage upon the road, about which he loitered for half an hour, when finding that I would not quit the house, (I had privately sent a person for a horse, for I had been walking,) he proceeded towards my place, collecting three of his associates, to way-lay me upon a bridge which I was to pass over—but having got my horse, I went home by an opposite road, and forded the river—thus, I avoided him.—Now, my Lord, what am I to do? If the duty of your station did not command your protecting me, is humanity completely extinguished in your breast? Are my injuries not only to remain unredressed, but am I to be refused even a *hearing* of them? Good God, what a return have I met with, for my unceasing endeavours to prevent oppression, and repress villainy? degraded * and insulted, whilst a set of villains are encouraged and protected! My Lord, under my present unhappy circumstances, what am I to expect? Your Grace's rank and dignity will not shield your conscience from the intruding reflection, that you became accessory to the death, (if it should so happen) of an innocent man.

I have the honor to be, &c.

R. WILSON."

B

* By suspending me from the Commission of the Peace.

THIS Letter produced the following reply:

Phoenix Park—August, 20, 1808.

“SIR,

IN answer to your Letter of the 16th instant, his Grace the Lord Lieutenant has directed me to transmit to you an accompanying copy of a letter (which, by the by I never received) written to you by his Grace's commands, on the 30th ult.

I have the honor, &c.

J. READY.”—P. S.

Richard Wilson, Esq.—Owena-Lodge.

THE ENCLOSED COPY.

Phenix Park — July, 30, 1808.

“SIR,

“IN answer to your Letter of the 19th instant, to the Lord Lieutenant, His Grace desires me to refer you to Sir Arthur Wellesley's Letter, (dated November, 12, 1807) and to observe, that in case of a magistrate not performing his duty to your satisfaction, there are others to whom you might apply, (I did so—with what effect I have in my former narrative shewn, and will also, in the present one, and how much I have been benefited,) “at all events, the courts of law are open to you,” (pray attend to the consistency and humanity of this reference, seeing I had confessed myself *unable*, through the pillage of my property, to take any legal steps, but by the assistance of government) “equally with all his Majesty's subjects, and prepared to redress the injury of which you complain.

I have the honor to be, &c.

J. READY.”—P. S.

Richard Wilson, Esq.—Owena-Lodge.

To this Letter I answered in the following terms:

☞ I HERE am to observe, once for all, that as I took the copies of my Letters in a very hurried manner, being always anxious to reply by return of post, there may happen to be some slight variance as to a *word*, but, that the *spirit* is *always* the same.

Owena-Lodge.—August, 27, 1808.

“ MY LORD,

“ A NOTE which I have this day received from your Grace’s Private Secretary, informs me, that an answer to my Letter of the 19th of July, had already been sent me, by your Grace’s commands—that answer never came to my hands—the copy which he has enclosed me, appearing by no means calculated to redress my dreadful sufferings, or protect my life; I must, conformable to the rule I have laid down, (and from which no circumstance, as long as I am permitted to exist, shall make me deviate) protest against a ministerial conduct, which so far from being devised to support the government, tends equally to encourage the oppression of a persecuted man, and bring the government itself into contempt and abhorrence.

“ YOUR Grace has been pleased to refer me to a letter of Sir Arthur Wellesley’s, of November, 1807, and quote a passage from it, “ that the Courts of Law are open to me equally with all his Majesty’s subjects, and prepared to redress the injury of which I complain;” but there is a subsequent passage of that gentleman’s letter, which appears to me, to have escaped your Grace’s notice, and which, in my mind, bears with great force upon the charges to which my two last Letters relate, “ the detail of transactions which it will be impossible for his Grace to interfere in any manner, excepting with the authority of the government, to enforce and support the decision and sentence of the law.” Now, my Lord, that is the very point I aim at, “ to enforce the law.”—I call upon a public magistrate to protect my life and property, I gave him most unquestionable proofs of an attempt to murder me, and exhibit *to his own view*, part of the robberies committed upon my property, *in the robber’s house*, yet, he takes no step for several weeks, to bring either the assassin to punishment, or put the robber (in this case they happened to be one and the same) even in the way of it! at last he finds it convenient to bring the assassin before him, *on a summons*, and takes the security for his peaceable conduct, (not a word of the robbery, also sworn and proved, as I have before stated against him) of

one of his associates, against whom I had already lodged examinations, *and before himself too!!!* I am here to observe, that both Assizes and Sessions had taken place *since* I had lodged these examinations—Now, my Lord, is not here a case, which according to Sir Arthur Wellesley, you are called upon, “to enforce the law,” but, your Grace may be taught to repeat “that the Courts of Law, &c. are open;” good God, after the description I have transmitted to your Grace of my situation, pillaged even to personal distress, and absolutely prevented from stirring abroad, for fear of assassination: can your Grace seriously desire me to go through the tedious forms of Courts of Law, when inevitable destruction must follow the first public step I advanced to that end? Why, my Lord, this is an actual (and if I was not addressing your Grace, I would say an impudent) mockery of my miseries! Had your Grace complied with my earnest and repeated wishes, for an investigation of my conduct as a magistrate, and into the state of the part of the country I reside in, you would have found, that the whole combined powers of an abominable faction could not have substantiated the slightest blot upon my magisterial proceedings, and that the inhabitants in my neighbourhood, of the Roman Catholic persuasion, are not only oppressed, but plundered, without daring to seek for redress, (except *through me*, which was the ground of the Orange vindictive persecution of me, since I ceased being a Magistrate.) In another place I have shewn that several murders were committed, and the perpetrators never brought to punishment.—Will then, your Grace’s advisers tell you, that these are not subjects for your grave consideration, and interference? If the charges be found true, will they say, that prompt and vigorous measures ought not to be adopted, to place the Police on its true basis, and that redress and compensation should not be afforded to the sufferers? To press these points further would be an insult upon your Grace’s understanding, and knowlege of your official duty—I must therefore suppose, (and yet, after all that has passed, the supposition has not a scruple of consistency to support it) that your Grace con-

ceives all I have said to be *fabrication*.—Then, my Lord, if so, I am bold to tell your Grace, that you are culpable indeed, and ignorant of the respect and duty you owe to your high station, if you do not pursue a very different mode to punish me for my calumnies, than, by shifting it to the shoulders of the murderer and the robber!

“ I WILL now conclude, my Lord, by expressing a conviction, that my traducers dare not meet the investigation I have so often implored ; and as long as I am allowed to exist, I will never cease to assert, that the ruin of my private fortune has been occasioned by the Councils your Grace has been advised to adopt, with regard to me—I must also, add, if the dagger of the assassin finds its way to my heart, 'tis your Grace who has directed it, by a callous indifference (I might give it another as well as a more appropriate term) to my complaints and injuries. Proscribed tho' I am, I shall ever scorn to rank myself with the proudest and most *successful* of my oppressors, but, speak of them with that contempt and detestation which an honorable mind can never cease feeling, for the base and cowardly detractor.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

R. WILSON.”

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.

THIS letter was not replied to, or my complaints any way noticed—every day, every night, I suffered one way or the other ; it would fill a volume, to give a minute description of the insults and injuries I endured at this particular period—my gates pulled to pieces, the piers thrown down, my hedges broken, my lands trespassed upon, my plantations partially destroyed, &c. &c. On the 8th of October, I endeavoured again to obtain the attention of government, on account of outrages which will be stated in the following Letter to the Duke of Richmond :

“ MY LORD,

“ THE numerous applications I have made to your Grace for protection, without affecting any other purpose than the encreasing my calamities, do not flatter me with an expectation that the present one will be attended

with more grateful consequences ; but, conformable to a system which nothing but the completion of the designs of the set of villains by whom I am surrounded, shall make me depart from—I deem it my duty to acquaint your Grace, that on the night before last, the best of my few remaining trees were cut down, and *last night*, a house in my farm yard was broke open, and the timber contained in it (a considerable quantity) was stolen—not satisfied, the thieves took off the roof (newly laid) of an office in the yard.—Recollecting the advice of your Grace’s Secretary, I applied to the magistrate in whose district I live, by a servant, who, *as well as the magistrate himself*, had a pretty well grounded suspicion who the robbers were—with many expressions of regret and *kindness for me*, the worthy magistrate was “*too busy to be able to take any steps towards apprehending the culprits,*” although a search warrant was requested by the servant.—This is the magistrate whose conduct I have already acquainted your Grace with, “relative to the cutting down my plantations and orchard, robbery, and double attempt to murder me, &c. &c.” I will not trouble your Grace, or myself, with comment, but rest contented with intreating your Grace not to insult my misfortunes, “by desiring me to apply to the laws for relief,” when, in truth, so far from being able to enter into any legal pursuits, I am actually in a state nearly approaching to the want of the common necessities, through that monstrous dereliction of duty in *those*, whose “authority was to enforce and support the decision and sentence of the law.” The miserable situation to which I am reduced, on account of a humane, impartial and honorable discharge of *my* duty, has excited a sensation in those who are acquainted with it, (and who have not aided in subjecting me to it,) very different from what the enemies of peace and good order have unceasingly endeavoured to represent my conduct.

I have the honor to be, &c.

R. WILSON.

Owena-Lodge.—October, 8, 1808.

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

THIS letter also remained unnoticed—In consequence of an attack upon my dwelling-house, I attempted again to rouse the attention of the Duke of Richmond, but in vain.—On the 12th of the succeeding month, I made another effort to that purpose, on account of new, and still more atrocious outrages—they are sketched in the following letter :

Owena-Lodge.—November, 12, 1808.

“ MY LORD,

“ IDLE as it may appear, after the repeated fruitless attempts I have made, to draw your Grace’s attention to my calamitous situation, yet, I cannot relinquish the hope that you may, at *last*, be awakened to a sense of the duties imposed upon you, by the high office with which you are invested—my last hasty letter, (I took no copy of it) “ written whilst my house was surrounded by a set of villains, remains unnoticed—I now sit down to sketch out the depredations which have since been committed upon my property, and the attempt, last night particularly, made upon my life.—The timber upon my estate (which for its size contained more than any other in this part of the kingdom) having been totally destroyed, the robbers attacked some of my farm houses, (which had been left empty, through fear of the armed banditti of this neighbourhood) and cut down the few trees which remained about their yards, planted for the purpose of shelter—they next pulled down one of the houses, and carried off the timber of it—I was privately informed of the intention of attacking another house on the succeeding night, which was then to be vacant also—to save the timber (for I can get no person bold enough to keep guard) I had it unroofed—disappointed here, they, last night, attacked my own house, (for the purpose, as ’tis believed, rather to draw me out, than for the present, to destroy it) and broke the windows—I was prevented, fortunately, from going out ; to which prevention alone, I am persuaded, I am indebted for my life.—The party then advanced to some houses about a quarter of a mile distance, and carried off the doors and windows.—“ This night I am to expect

(as turned out to be the case) “the total demolition of them.”—The Farms belonging to these houses are valuable ones, and no person dares treat for them: so a great part of my small property in this kingdom lies waste, and unfitted for tenants, even, if I could procure them, without going to an expence which I am now completely incapacitated from.—I need not trouble your Grace with a repetition of former attacks upon my life and estate, and, therefore, will quit this part of my subject, by observing that five of my farm houses are destroyed, (two however, some months since) and the farms a common waste to the country, and that the head of the gang is an *Orange-man and Yeoman*, supported by his brethren, and he, himself, under every obligation to me, which, one would suppose, could bind man to man!

“My Lord, are my reports true or false? If the latter, would it derogate from your station, to make enquiry, and have me held out to the world as deserving of the calamities, which I falsely state to be heaped upon me? If true, ought not the perpetrators be brought to punishment, and the conduct of the magistrates, who, unheeded permits, and I might add, I believe, with but too much truth, encourages them, be enquired into? Would it not, also, be right, that the public should know, *why* I was deprived of the magistracy, after my repeated challenge “to prove that my conduct in it was such as to defy the power of hell to stamp any other characters upon it, than humanity, justice, impartiality and vigour? Think not my Lord, I allude to this latter cause of complaint, through any desire of being reinstated in that office—nothing my Lord, but the deplorable state of this part of the country, and the earnest solicitation of the oppressed, could have at first induced my acceptance of it—and at the very time I was superseded, I was determined to resign my commission, finding that the ignorance, partiality and *corruption* of some of my brethren made it impossible for me to act with any beneficial effect to the public—no, my Lord, nothing but a most strict investigation into mine and the surrounding magistrates conduct, could prevail upon me (anxious as I am to serve

my country) to re-accept it; also, *complete satisfaction made to me, every way, for my insults and injuries!*

“ I SHALL now conclude, my Lord, with remarking, that I have complied (as far as I was able) with the directions of your Secretary—that all my endeavours to obtain relief were ineffectual, and finally, my Lord, that the ruin of my property, and the combination of a set of Attornies particularly, have exhausted every expedient by which I could procure the means of obtaining legal redress, in the common mode of proceeding; though indeed, had not that been the case, no law process could come up to my case; nothing but the vigorous and powerful hand of government, and bounty of parliament, could give me any effectual relief.

“ I WILL not detain your Grace any longer, though I could produce some circumstances relative to two of the men who act as magistrates in this neighbourhood—Mr. ——— and Mr. ———, an Attorney, as would bring shame to those who could continue such people in any office of trust and respectability.—(Before I finish this pamphlet I will decide the character of the scoundrel Attorney magistrate) “ at a future day, I may, if I can get off with my life, enter into this subject more at large.

I have the honor to be, &c.

“ R. WILSON.”

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

ON the 15th of the same month, I wrote to the Duke of Richmond again, in consequence of the outrage which is attempted to be described.

“ *Owena-Lodge,—November 15, 1808.*

“ MY LORD,

“ IN a former letter I mentioned to your Grace, that on the preceding evening, the doors, &c. of two of my best farm houses, (and indeed, few so good in this part of the country,) were carried away, &c.—Last night I was

awakened at an early hour, by an attack upon my own house—the fatigue occasioned by the two former ones having obliged me to retire unusually early to bed—there was little other harm done except to the glass, but the object evidently was, either to get me out of the house, to assassinate me, or else, prevent my attempting to save the above mentioned houses, from the flames they were involved in—the former, I rather believe, was the object; the latter, indeed, was impossible, even if I had ventured.—Both the houses, with their offices, are burned to the ground! In consequence of the cold I have caught, by being forced so frequently naked from my bed, with the agitation of my mind, I am now so entirely exhausted as to leave me little hope, in case of my house being broken open, of having strength to repel the savages, so that I can look for safety no longer to personal individual exertion.—*This night*, 'tis imagined, is intended to be the last of my existence! My house was surrounded by the villains, the greatest part of the night; the wretches, however, kept aloof from the part, from whence, had I been so inclined, I might have fired at them; but the truth is, I did not dare to discharge my fire arms, for *then*, I must have been massacred as soon as the doors could be broke open! It may be asked, “why I do not fly from my house, and endeavour to save myself, even at the expence of my property?” I answer, that was I not bound by a principle of honor, to those who have for *near two years* enabled me to subsist, (the final destruction of my place, being the certain consequence of my flight) yet, have I neither the means to remove, or a family in this part of the world which would dare to receive me? I am not to inform your Grace, that my friends, my relations, and the principal part of my fortune, are situated in England.

“I WILL trouble your Grace no longer than to observe, that a respectable man who keeps a little shop, within a quarter of a mile of my house, went on Sunday last to the magistrate to whom I have so often alluded—this magistrate confessed (how *truly* his intimate connection *with*, kindness and attention to all the villains about me will

evinced) “ he did not dare to interfere least he himself should lose his life.” I need not make a comment—a fellow, notoriously at the head of a gang of robbers and house breakers, told this man “ to take care of himself, for if he did not quit his talking with *Wilson*, he himself, should soon share his fate.”—In consequence of this threat, he went to the above mentioned magistrate, to make information of it, he had his walk for his pains. (’Tis true he was a Roman Catholic.)

“ I HAVE done with intreaty my Lord, I consider myself-as no longer of this world, and shall in my prayers for a reception into the next, not forget to implore God to forgive your cruel treatment.

I am my Lord, your Grace’s, &c. &c.

R. WILSON.”

“ HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.”

FOUR days after the above letter being written, I again addressed his Grace, upon a new act of atrocity, to request him “ to take my house off my hands, in order to make it a barrack for a few troops, which the lawless state of this part of the country so particularly required”—this letter and proposal were occasioned by a seventh farm house of mine having been destroyed—of course this letter met with the same fate of the preceding one—*no notice taken of it*—during a month after this, I was left tolerably quiet, that is to say, as I never left my own grounds, my life was not, notwithstanding my well founded apprehensions, attempted, nor my house attacked; my persecutors contenting themselves with stealing and destroying young trees, preventing by threats, people from working for me, vowing “ the burning of their houses, if they were employed in my service, &c.” *Moore* frequently stopping people who were bringing me coal or turf, telling them, “ that they never would be paid,” with a thousand other annoyances, which I consider trifling, when compared with what had already been done.—I had given over all

hopes of government's interference when a gentleman called upon me, as he said, "by the direction of General Michel, (who was then absent upon business relating to his district) who had received orders from Sir Edward Littlehales, to make a personal enquiry into the devastations I complained of—that in consequence of General Michel's absence, it fell to his lot to take a survey of them, but that General Michel on his return was to call upon me, &c." I shewed Major Read, (the gentleman was so called) such of the burned houses as he had time to take a view of—Major Read spoke "with astonishment at the state of the country, and a magistracy which permitted such scandalous outrages, and assured me that I might depend upon it, that General Michel, after he had taken a view of the devastations, would make a faithful report of them to government, and, as far as depended upon him, to obtain me redress and compensation, &c." General Michel a few days after called upon me, and well warranted the opinion Major Read taught me to entertain of him—General Michel did not go over the whole of my estate, and therefore could not give an account of *all* the injuries I had received, but said "he had seen sufficient to authorize him to represent my sufferings as very enormous, &c." I am fully persuaded General Michel did fulfill his promise, but I have reason to know and *feel*, that his representations were attended with no beneficial effect to me, or credit to government—on the 11th of December I received a letter from General Michel, which will tend to shew the sense that gentleman had of my situation—it was written in answer to one I had sent him, stating new outrages committed *since* he had been with me.

" SIR

" I HAVE this instant the honor of your letter—I trust you will believe no man laments the outrages you complain of more than I do, and I sincerely wish it were in my power to prevent them; I last night had the honor of a communication from the government, relative to the letters

I transmitted, and will do myself the pleasure of waiting on you to morrow, at Owna-Lodge, to acquaint you with the result.

I have the honor to be, &c.

J. MICHEL."—B. G.

Armagh,—December 11, 1808.

Richard Wilson, Esq.—Owna-Lodge.

I OUGHT to have inserted a letter which I received from General Michel previous to the above—it merely was expressive of his sorrow for the depredations committed upon me, and assuring me “he lost no time in transmitting my letter, for the information of government, &c.”

GENERAL MICHEL shortly after called upon me, accompanied by his Aid-de-Camp, Major Read, and said, “he was sorry *he could not be of any further use to me by his visits, as he had received directions from government, to have the two nearest magistrates Messrs. ——— appointed to attend at my house, to hear my complaints, investigate them, &c. and that when he had so done, there his commission was to end—as he was given to understand “that further communication from him on the subject of them would be dispensed with.”* I did not feel myself warranted to press General Michel on a subject which he appeared unwilling further to dilate upon, but, I believe, I expressed myself with some degree of astonishment and resentment, at government appointing the very two men, to investigate my complaints, who, I had fatal sorrow to know, had rather *protected* than *punished* the villains who had given rise to them!

IN about a fortnight after, the said magistrates informed me, that they would attend at a fixed day at my house—I felt anxious, from the opinion I justly conceived of the honour and humanity of General Michel, and Major Read, that these two gentlemen should be present at the curious investigation which I knew (and as it proved to be) would take place—I wrote to General Michel for this purpose, and received from him the following answer:

“ SIR,
 “ I DID not receive your letter of the 10th instant, until my return this evening, from Lord Blaney’s, where I have been since Tuesday last—I am sorry you should have conceived me guilty of an omission in not answering any former letter of your’s, but, I was unwilling to give you trouble relative to any answer, when I felt I could be of no assistance—had I been at home on the arrival of your last letter, I should immediately have answered it; and I trust, you will believe, I shall be very happy to find that your meeting with Messrs. ———, has turned out to your benefit and satisfaction.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JOHN MICHEL.”

Armagh,—January 15.

Richard Wilson, Esq.

I HAVE inserted General Michel’s letters, in order to shew by them, the sense that respectable gentleman had of my sufferings and complaints, that he viewed them in a very different way from that the government did; for I am fully persuaded, had it been disposed to redress them, his representations could not fail of forwarding its intention—This is all I shall say upon that head; the reader will make his own commentary upon that strange procedure with more justice, when he hears what follows:

DURING my communication with General Michel, in consequence of additional grievances, I wrote to the Duke of Richmond, to the following purport:

“ MY LORD,

“ NOTWITHSTANDING the neglect with which government treated my calamities for a melancholy length of time, yet, I own, I felt a gleam of hope that some intention had been formed to relieve and protect me, upon Major Read, (General Michel’s Aid-de-Camp) having acquainted me that I was to be visited by General Michel, *by order of government*, “ to enquire into the *existence* of my representations.” Good God, how have I been deceived in

that hope? So far from obtaining even the semblance any way of relief, my sufferings have been insultingly aggravated! for I dare not now, even go about my own grounds; the villain who has so repeatedly attempted my life, uses his yeoman gun for the *pretended* purpose of fowling, but, in truth, (as a former circumstance leads me to believe) for the real one, to murder me, under the pretext of *accident*! However, in consequence of what passed between General Michel and me, in his last (and as he told me, his concluding) visit, I sent to Mr. ———, the nearest *acting* magistrate, if he can be so called, and reminded him of the examinations long since sworn by me, relative to the conspiracies, robberies, and dangers against my life, &c. which examinations had been treated by him in the manner as detailed to your Grace, in a former letter.—I readily anticipated what took place—a wretched attempt to “excuse himself, a declaration of willingness to do every thing in his power, without however, stirring an inch, but, by desiring me to send in my witness, (which by the bye, I had previously told him, was impossible, as they were to a certain degree, *parties*, as *knowing* of the thefts, &c. &c. and that the only means to get at them would be by his coming to the spot with a force sufficient to compel their attendance, and take up the persons accused before there was time for escape”) (It will presently be seen, the use this worthy magistrate made of my suggestion) another magistrate Mr. ———, sent me a verbal message, about this time, by his bailiff, “that he had found out two of the thieves who stole my timber—by the same channel I replied, “that he instantly ought to take some steps towards bringing them to justice,”—but, from this gentleman, too, I have not since heard a syllable. (I must observe that this latter magistrate, *himself*, repeated to me what his bailiff had stated; *but never took any further notice of the matter!*) These messages took place on the 16th instant, since that period I have been in a state of imprisonment! in addition to my being stripped, I may say, of my *all*, even to beggary! I think I am entitled to say, that the ruin of my property will not *now* satisfy

my persecutors ; my life must pay the forfeit of my integrity and steadiness in the cause of my country, justice and humanity ! I merely acquaint your Grace with the result of General Michel's enquiry, that I may not hereafter have any ground for charging myself with omission of duty—I here take leave to say, that the conduct of General Michel and his Aid-de-Camp, Major Read, was in every point of consideration, I could view it in, humane and perspicuous ; they saw and felt for the distresses of an unfortunate gentleman, and “ deplored the state of a country which would suffer such proceedings, *for such a length of time, to pass unnoticed and unpunished.*”

“ GENERAL MICHEL assured me, and I firmly rely upon what he said, that “ he fully explained my situation to government, but, that he had no power either to advise or redress ; that he was a mere agent, and that having told me, he had been with the two nearest magistrates, upon the state of my complaints, *there* his agency ended, as it was intimated to him, not even to make any further reports upon them to government, but leave them to the consideration of Messrs. ———— & ———— !!!” Good God ! seek for, or expect redress from magistrates whose scandalous neglect of duty, had been the originating cause of these depredations, is too farcical ! The *former* actually refused to interfere ; the *latter* I have less to say of, but his conduct upon, if possible, a more solemn occasion, proves, *that there was no crime, however flagitious, committed by his Yeomen and Orangemen, that he would not screen from punishment.*

“ WHETHER my Lord your treatment of me has arisen from the suggestions of your own mind, or from these of the people about you, it will one day or another excite reflections a million times more excruciating, than the miseries I have endured will occasion in the breast of

My Lord, your Grace's, &c.

R. WILSON.”

Owena-Lodge.—December 25, 1808.

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

P. S I ought to have noticed, that to my request of "having a party of soldiers* quartered in this most profligate neighbourhood, and a government proclamation, with a reward to discover the offenders," General Michel informed me, "*it would not be complied with;*" I then comment upon the refusal of government, refusing so legitimate a request, and state, that *at the very time*, a new erected bridge, over a river which runs through my lawn, was destroyed; more of my new plantations cut down, a fine young heifer stolen—also, a Roman Catholic Sergeant of Militia nearly murdered and robbed; another Roman Catholic in my neighbourhood robbed, after being knocked down, of his pocket-book—but, who, it appeared had it afterwards (by what means I could never learn) restored to him. (*he was a Freemason*) (as to the Sergeant beyond all hopes, he recovered, but his assistants and robbers, by some happy means got off, I believe without any punishment at all) I then ask, do not these facts demand investigation; as also, the acquittals for four most unprovoked murders, which in a former publication† I stated, &c.

ON the 15th of the succeeding month Messrs. ——— & ———, attended by a body of the yeomen, came to my house; I was not a little astonished to see Mr. ———, attended by his yeomen, particularly, as the persons against whom my charges were principally directed, *belonged to that body*—my principal evidence, 'tis true, was one of them, but, as his information to me, was perfectly voluntary, (he had been under some very great obligations to me) I had hopes that he would have been steady, *being also a Freemason*, but seeing his brother yeomen, I began to fear (which after turned out to be the fact) that he had been tampered with by the worthy head of the Corps, the magistrate—his companions were brought merely for the purpose of keeping him steady *to their cause*, and overawing some other

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* Though there are large parties of the Military quartered in Charlemount, and Auchnacloy, none could be spared to protect me! both less than 5 miles distant from my place.

Vid . my last Pamphlet, page 34.

witnesses, who being Roman Catholics, they well knew, would not dare to utter a word which could affect any of the Orange body.—However, by way of fixing my informers on the Orange side, he had been, by the worthy magistrate, a few days before, raised from a *private* to the rank of *sergeant*—I shall only add, what I believe my reader already anticipated, that, “*he denied upon oath, every tittle he had previously and voluntarily declared to me, on the word of a Freemason!!!*” Another wretch also perjured himself, his perjury was however, brought home upon the moment, and examinations were lodged against him, but he was never indicted! A third witness did the same—thus, this “investigation,” ended; a complete triumph of Orangism over justice! I will not make any comment upon this “investigation,” every man (not an Orangeman) is competent to form a just estimation of it.—I thought it however, right, to express my sentiments upon this “investigation” to government, and wrote to the Duke of Richmond, pretty nearly to the following purport: I began by telling him that, “this should be the last letter I would trouble him with, unless government should direct a recommencement of my communications—that the event of yesterday’s magisterial investigation of my injuries, required me to make a report of it to his Grace—that Messrs. ———— & ————, did summon as I directed, the parties who had given me private information of the robberies, &c. committed upon my property, also, of such persons as I had reason to believe, could throw light upon their testimony—that, the persons summoned did attend, but that the principal witness *directly contradicted their original information*—that Mr. ————, brought his Orange yeomen along with him, but no Peace Officer, a circumstance which the other magistrate expressed his surprize at—that these men were commanded by the Son of Mr. ———— for the purpose, as was declared, “*to protect the witnesses,*” that I begged his Grace will justly appreciate the motive for bringing these Orangemen, when I acquaint him with a circumstance which came to my knowledge immediately after the magistrates left my house, to wit, that during the exami-

nation, the yeoman officer came frequently into the room where we sat—would return to his yeomen, and whisper with them; some of whom would immediately set off to the house of one of their brethren, (situated as I had formerly stated to his Grace) who had been placed in it by the Orangeman who had been an original conspirator for the purpose of destroying my place, &c.—that after these communications had for some time gone on, the officer came out to his men and offered a bet of a *pint of whiskey*, “*that no person would be taken up;*” he *instantly set off attended by some of his Orangemen to the accused man’s house*, (the famous Moore) where after he remained a few minutes, the children of Moore commenced a dance at the outside of his house, &c. That I conceived all comment upon this unnecessary—that is to the conduct of Mr. ———, the other magistrate, it appeared to me commendable—I concluded by observing, that, this new triumph appeared to me equally complete as to Orange views, and disgraceful to the laws, and as its consequences (as to my sorrow will presently appear) promised to be as calamitous to me, as it might probably, eventually be to the state—its effect, personally to me, was now become a matter of indifference, as life was of little value, when the means of its support were destroyed, &c. &c.

SIGNED,

R. WILSON.”

Dated, Owana-Lodge,—July, 16, 1809.

By the same post I wrote to the Duke of Richmond, however, a *private letter*, part of which I shall transcribe, enough however, to leave the public to form an opinion of his *humanity*, as I take for granted, it has already made a decided one on his *politics*.—I determined to throw away the hatchet of Tenes, and give him an opportunity of separating his private from his public character—after the reader has perused my letter, he is to make his own reflection upon his Grace’s feelings.

“ MY LORD,

“ If the subject which has *forced* this private prayer to your Grace’s humanity, does not plead its own apology, every attempt of mine must be as unavailing as obtrusive ; I am to assure your Grace, and I trust I shall be readily credited, that no personal distress would ever induce me to seek for any aid but what it was entitled to, on a public ground—but, my Lord, there are other distresses, which the most obdurate pride will kneel for compassion of—such my Lord, are these I will endeavour to interest your Grace in—I am my Lord, (unhappily for them!) the father of three children, whom, in other circumstances, a monarch might be proud of—these children I had no other means of educating or providing for, but through what I might save in this country, and by the sale of timber, or by my Son’s making an allowance for it—I had intended to burthen him, on that account, with a thousand pounds a piece for them, which, if I did not live to do more, would (by an annuity) keep them above want—I do not wish to mix my private with my public calamities, but as little as possible, and therefore will only observe, that *that* source is for ever lost ! And therefore, have no right to burthen my Son, even if he could bear it, with a provision for these wretched infants.—I here advert to certain circumstances, with regard to these children, which I refrain (*not on my own account, observe,*) from exhibiting to public animadversion ; they being intended merely for his Grace’s private consideration—I go on and say, “ the object of my prayer is, that, since I am, by my calamities, prevented from educating and supporting these children, your Grace will take their unhappy case into consideration, and apply some part of those *means*,* which your present situation gives you the controll over, to their relief.—There are, I make no doubt, many claims upon that fund; but I take upon me to say, (and if you saw the children you would readily admit it) that there could not be objects more interesting to benevolence—be the crimes of their parents what they may—and the greater their crimes, the more forcible are the childrens claims upon

* The concordatum fund.

humanity—they are at all events, the grand children of the gallant Lord ———, &c. &c. I will detain your Grace no longer than to express an assurance that any prejudice you may have been taught to entertain against their father, on the score of his differing with those your Grace advises with, upon certain points, will not interfere with the benevolent dictates of your heart.

I have the honor to be, &c.

R. WILSON."

THIS letter met with the fate of the preceding ones—his Grace had not time for the exercise of benevolence.—Four attacks upon me were the result of Messrs. ——— & ———'s "investigation," getting abroad—the latter gentleman's conduct at the "investigation," and "assurances of every means in his power to assist me," led me to entertain sentiments towards him very opposite to those his behaviour on former occasions compelled me to form*—but that worthy magistrate did not long permit me to remain in ignorance of his true character.—The famous Moore, soon after the "investigation" had given him absolution for all his former crimes towards me, under pretence of authority, seized three cars which were bringing turf to my house, put the horses in the pound, and scattered the turf on the public road—it was in vain that the servants shewed their authority, and proved the legal purchase of the turf, by permission of the steward of the estate (the principal of the investigating magistrates, and to whom I have so often alluded) from whence these turf were brought; it did not signify—after several hours searching about for the pound keeper, he was at last found in a public house, above three miles from the pound; he, upon looking at the certificate, owned, that the writing was that of the steward, and that the horses should be delivered, but at the same time, endeavoured to extort a guinea for his civility; this the servants refused, he at last was prevailed upon, by getting some drink, to give up the

* Vid. page 24 of my "narrative."

horses.—Well, I applied to the Steward, who owned, “Moore had no authority for taking up my horses, and that I should without molestation, bring home the remainder of my purchase ;”—I wished him to punish this Moore, but this Mr. ——— declined—I then applied to his brother magistrate, assured, from his voluntary offers of services, that he would take the matter into his cognizance—he wrote me a very civil letter, and sent summonses for Moore and his party—they appeared, and he bound them over to the next sessions, to answer for their conduct—I never heard one syllable more of the matter from that time to this day, March 4, 1813 ; a period of near four years !!!

SOME short time after this a renewal of attacks upon my house, and destruction of my plantations, induced me to apply to this last mentioned gentleman—I received from him again, a very civil answer, “deploring the unsettled state of the country, and that my application should be made to General Michel.”—From what had passed between General Michel and me, I think it unnecessary to say, that I did not pursue the worthy magistrate’s suggestion ; and began to resort to my former opinion of Mr. ———. Two or three letters upon the subject of my complaints, passed between this gentleman and me ; but, as they were evasive, and can throw no new light upon this part of the gentleman’s character, I deem it unnecessary to detail them.—I, however, wrote him a concluding letter, in which I certainly animadverted pretty strongly upon the manner of administering justice in this country, and contrasted it with the English mode, I asserted, that, “if attention had been paid, and my informations acted upon with vigour, the devastators of my property might, long since, have been discovered.”—I concluded by asking him, “*are no steps to be taken to secure me from future aggressions ? Are the laws become a dead letter, and the ministers of them merely nominal ? Are my charges calculated only to create “frivolous discussion,” (a term the worthy magistrate applied to them) and never to obtain for me either redress for the past, or protection for the future ? &c.*”

DURING the two following months, Moore and his supporters one way or other, were daily committing depredations upon me—driven almost out of my senses, I attempted contrary to a former determination, to engage the attention of government, seeing that neither of the two magistrates, *specially appointed by government to attend to my complaints*, would exert themselves to obtain me relief.

I wrote to the Duke of Richmond, pretty nearly in the following words :

“ MY LORD,

“ My last letter to your Grace promised a termination of my correspondence, but the conduct of the two magistrates to whom your Grace referred me, for examination into the abuses I complained of, (with the additional afflictions I have since experienced) compels me to make another effort for relief to the only power, to which my situation, just now, enables me to appeal—one of these magistrates, (*in spite of former experience*) I imagined, had felt for my distresses, and meant to exert himself in my behalf—alas ! how mistaken have I been ? Although I had obtained *every thing but* positive proof of the identity of the principal offenders, yet, he took no sort of pains to investigate the circumstances which led to it—I then applied to the other ; *that*, indeed, I considered as a forlorn hope, the delinquents being long before well known to him, and under his immediate protection, on account of their being tenants of the person to whom he was Steward.—I had been informed *where* some part of my stolen timber was to be found, and requested a search warrant, with a peace officer, to examine the place where I was told it was laid—in vain ! I had previously given information to both the magistrates, of my house being again attacked, and my windows *a third time*, shattered to pieces—*no motion whatever, was made by either of them !* A few trees remaining as shelter, about one of my tenant's houses, have been cut down and carried off : my plantations, which I had for *a fourth time* renewed, (at the expence of the very necessities of life, as, for the sake of my Son, I wished my place restored to something of an appearance of respectability,) have been repeatedly injured, but, last night the stroke was

finished.—The attack was first made in the middle of the night, upon my house, but that I repelled, and after sitting up for some hours, I returned to bed, thinking I had driven off the villains; but, so far from it, that they renewed the destruction of my young trees, and scarce left one unbroken, or rooted up.

“Your Grace having been made acquainted by General Michel, with the former devastations committed upon my property, and not deigning, any way, to give me assistance, (and a private letter I wrote to your Grace, which I *had hoped*, would have awakened some sentiment of pity, if not for me, at least, for three helpless and deserted children, still remaining unnoticed) I dare promise myself neither redress or protection! What is to become of me may be of little importance, *apparently*, to your Grace; but if it should appear that all my calamities (since your Grace’s arrival in this kingdom) have originated in the *unaccountable neglect* of your Grace to my remonstrances, your depriving me of the only security I had against the machinations of an atrocious and vindictive party, whom I defy to prove *one* circumstance of my conduct to any human being, that is discreditable to my public life, unless it so calls my endeavours to protect the oppressed from their barbarities, and your continuing and supporting a magistracy which would disgrace a Turkish divan; I think I am entitled to say, that, the public voice will not be very loud in your eulogium—I am really, so much agitated, and so completely disabled from getting out of the fangs of the protected villains of this country, (for I am now reduced to absolute want, my whole property in this kingdom being nearly waste, and what I have elsewhere, I have yielded up for indispensable claims) that I hardly know what I am saying, or able to form any plan for future measures.—This I observe on account of the inaccuracies of this letter—but your Grace has too much discernment not to know, that, *an apology is not due*.

I have the honor to be, &c.

R. WILSON.”

Oona-Lodge.—April, 28, 1809.

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

I AM now arrived at a period of my deplorable history, the detail of which, will require more than a double portion of my readers indulgence—I deprecate the severity of criticism—I only request that an impartial and humane consideration of my calamities, will be afforded me, and I am persuaded, I shall experience and meet with, a mild judgment; the more so, as it must be observable, that, I aim at no celebrity as a writer, but detail my sufferings in the unadorned garb of simplicity and truth—to this I am to add, that, I have not more than a week permitted me, to remain from home and finish my narrative.

It will be necessary for me to notice a circumstance, which as it is of a private nature, may at the first blush appear uncalled for, but, the reader will presently see that it bears very materially upon the point I wish to establish; that, every means have been resorted to, *from all quarters*, to ruin me.

IN the winter of 1808, my affairs obliged me to compel some tenants who had very advantageous holdings under me, to pay me a long standing arrear, which they had, for a considerable length of time, trifled with me about—I seized their cattle; they were *advised* to apply to the *Attorney* Magistrate, whom I have so frequently and pointedly alluded to in my former Pamphlets, who, they were told, “ would be glad to *work me* if he could”—they did so, and explained their *distress*—I confess, I did not think it possible that they could have any thing further in view, than merely to delay payment, and took no further notice of the matter, ’till I was roused by an information, that this Attorney was proceeding to execution against me for costs, in consequence of my not following up my suit.—I had no Attorney to advise with, but, wrote to one with whom I had a slight acquaintance, (in Dublin) to make enquiry how the matter stood, and to find out the costs, in order that I might have them paid.” The tenants Attorney was not in Dublin, but, his partner answered, “ that he must have instructions from his principal, and that he would act upon them, not doubting, however, that my proposal would immediately be acceded to.”—In a few

days he gave my agent to understand, that, the instructions had been given to proceed to execution.—Upon being acquainted with this scandalous determination, I wrote to the Sheriff of the County Tyrone, who happened to be (as he is pleased to acknowledge himself) my relation; I applied to him as I said, not as a relation or an old friend, but, merely as a gentleman, “that he would prevent the malignant object of the infamous Attorney, by desiring his under Sheriff to apply to me for the amount of the costs, *with his own fees added to them.*” —My Right Honorable relation, (Sir John Stewart) immediately replied to me, and assured me, “*as far as depended upon him or his deputy, I had nothing to apprehend;*” upon this assurance I became easy—but, lo! on that very day week, Officers of the Sheriff, came upon my lands, most cruelly abused a servant who was at labour, and carried away every article, as well as cattle, they could lay hold of—I remonstrated, by letter, the next day, with my Right Honorable relation, upon the apparent perfidy of his conduct, and required an explanation and redress, by stopping the sale of my property—my Right Honorable Relations excuses were every way so contemptible, that nothing but his words could give a proper description of them—but, as the many letters I received from him, with my rejoinders, would take up a space, which the various other matters I have to relate will not admit of, I shall only detail the prominent parts of them; at the same time, declaring, that I am ready to permit any person who will take the trouble to read the originals.—My Right Honorable relation has my free permission to exhibit mine, which he said, (in answer to one of my requests to him, “to preserve my letters”) “he had taken care of;” his second letter contained excuses so flimsy and evasive, that really, one would suppose my Right Honorable relation, had been bred a Newgate Solicitor, instead of being a man who had possessed the important office of his Majesty’s Attorney General—he expressed great sorrow for my situation; declared himself ignorant of the persons who had the ear of government in this kingdom, and, for his part *he never interfered with*

them now.—His next letter states “his having applied to his under Sheriff, relative to my charges against his Bailiffs, his ignorance of the transaction till he received my letter, &c.”—his never interfering with his Under Sheriff, except in this instance, and that he was too late; (he told me in his first letter, “*that he would see the under Sheriff the next day, or write to him!!!*”) “his knowing nothing of the parties.” (My Right Honorable relation’s memory failed him here, as well as in other matters, for one of the party was for many years employed about his farm-yard, as *châtreur de cochons*, and boasts “of great intimacy with his employer.”) He also expressed a wish to come to me, and see the manner in which party spirit was exerted against me, enquire into the conduct of the Bailiffs, &c. but mentions “a distressing circumstance which had hitherto prevented him, the *illness of his friend Lord Abercorn’s Son.*”—My reply to this letter, I could find, hurt my Right Honorable relation—I trust he will some time or other be induced to publish it, and all my letters; I promise him I will not be backward in doing him all possible justice, by giving *his, in full length*—he begins by saying, that, “he would be justified in not replying to it, but, thinking me in an error, he is induced to trouble me with a few lines; he goes on to say, “I have been imposed upon by false representations.”—Where was the false representation in my quoting? “His assurance, that as far as depended upon him, or his under Sheriff, I should have no cause of complaint,” upon which “assurance” I relied, and from which flowed all the misfortunes I shall presently detail, and which I might in a great measure, have been entirely freed from, had I not treated that “assurance” as coming from a man of honor—much of this letter, indeed, I might say the whole of it, is a wretched attempt at justification; I am to remark, that my Right Honorable relation, in former letters, repeatedly assured me “of his intention to come to me;” *he never did*—his excuses upon that head, were as frivolous, as his attempt at justification for his breach of faith, was contemptible—in one of his letters he pronounces an eulogium upon his under Sheriff,

whom he represents as “ an *upright and honorable man*,” and tells me, “ he would shortly call upon me, for the purpose of explanation, but his coming should not induce him to fail in the promise he, himself, had made me of a visit, &c.”—Neither of these worthy gentlemen ever did come near me—I received from the deputy, a vulgar sort of letter, but nothing to the purpose—I never could obtain an account of what I was required to pay, in order to free myself from these executions; which were almost daily repeated, for several months.—After all the stock in my farm-yard, of every sort was taken up, the Sheriff seized upon my grazing crops, which they sold at prices before, I believe, unheard of, even at a Sheriff’s sale—I must notice two articles, the prices of which, a bye stander told me of, (I have already observed, that I never could obtain an account of the demand the Sheriff had against me, nor, the amount of what the several articles sold for) upwards of SEVENTY TONS of Hay, great part of which was of the former year’s growth, and all of it, of the very finest quality, was sold for somewhat about *Ten Pounds!!!* An acre of Potatoe Oats growing in the orchard, which I observed had been destroyed, was knocked down to the celebrated Moore, for *five shillings*, one of the fellows observing that “ poor James Moore had had a great deal of trouble, and none should bid against him.”—It is to be observed, too, that this part of the sale took place after the principal Bailiff had closed the sale, this orchard lying out of the view of the other fields of grain—thus, was I wearied for several months; every week my name placarded round the country—obliged to keep myself closely confined in my house, which was almost continually surrounded by Moore and his associates, whom my Honorable Relation or his Deputy, authorized to seize my person—for so ingenious were the fiends, that they had not only executions against my goods, but my person.—Driven almost out of my senses, and resentful at the perfidy, duplicity, and hypocrisy of my Hight Honorable relation, I was induced to give a statement of my case to the public, which I did through the *Dungannon Paper*.—This letter I will give a copy of,

as it will save my reader some trouble, by giving a general view of my situation at the time it was written.

“ SIR,

“ As your paper has often been made the vehicle of calumnious, charges against my reputation, I trust you will have sufficient candour to convey through the same channel, not a refutation of those calumnies, for their falsehood and malignity, were too palpable, not to carry their antidote along with them, but, a statement of a particular persecution, I, at this moment, am afflicted with; a persecution, taken in all its bearings, I hope, for the honour of human nature, is not to be paralleled in any nation upon earth, *supposed* to be in a state of civilization—as I intend to make the matter I allude to, and others of still more important interest, the subjects of * parliamentary enquiry, and public animadversion, I will occupy no more of your paper than will be sufficient to give a general outline of the treachery and baseness, *supported by authority*, which have occasioned (in vindication of my character) this rather premature appeal to public sympathy—without further preface I shall proceed in as succinct a manner as the nature of the subject (so as to be tolerably intelligible) permits.—Some of my tenants owing me an arrear of long standing, and having under various pretences, delayed the settling of their accounts I was compelled, through the pressingness of one of the many false debts sworn against me, to insist upon their fulfilling their repeatedly broken engagements—unfortunately, I took a wrong step in the mode of enforcing my rights; these men availed themselves of my error, and with the assistance and advice of one of these pests † of society, who are ever upon the catch to plunder both client and adversary, they commenced a prosecution against me, for “illegally taking up their cattle; of their intention I was kept

* It will presently be seen, I *did* attempt this design, but failed.

† The famous *Attorney Magistrate* I have so often been obliged to notice.

in profound ignorance, 'till it was too late to rectify my mistake, for, with the exception of some papers *thrown into my house, by the tenants themselves*, the meaning of which I could not make out, (having no professional man in the country then to consult with) I had not the smallest reason to suppose, that, the *replevin* they obtained was for any other purpose than procrastination.—I was however, at last, in no very pleasant manner undeceived—their most *reputable* Attorney obtained judgment against me! A respectable gentleman of that profession, happened just at this time to be in the country; he advised me, “in order to save expence, (my neglect of timely resistance having precluded any defence now) to send to the people for an account of their Attorney’s demand, and pay it.” With this advice I instantly complied, but, their Attorney refused *his* assent (*as they say*) to my proposal.—Mr. ——— S—— had about this time set off to Dublin; I immediately informed him of what I had done, the Attorney’s refusal, &c. Mr. ———, upon this, made repeated efforts to get an account of this curious debt, from the Attorney’s Agent, who, at last informed him, that, he was directed not to give it, “as his clients would have an execution.”—In order to save myself from personal insult, and my property from being pillaged, I wrote a full account of the whole business, with a copy of Mr. ———’s letter, to the present High Sheriff, Sir John Stewart; a gentleman *who does me the honour of acknowledging me as his relation*. —“Requesting him to prevent his Deputy from issuing any warrants against me—to acquaint me with the amount of the demand, which should be remitted to him, with all the fees and profits he might expect in the actual execution of the process, &c. &c.—*To this letter I received a friendly answer, “that in this matter I might be assured of having nothing to complain of, either with regard to himself, or his under Sheriff.”*—I also, mentioned to my Right Honorable relation, that *I was ready to put into his hands four times the amount, if he desired it, of this infamous demand.*—In about ten days after I received this assurance, given under my Right Honorable relation’s own hand, his Bailiffs seized upon every thing they could get

at! they left me without a horse to cultivate a portion of my waste lands, or a cow to give milk to my family! My *worthy* Relations letters shall one day or other, make their appearance, when they shall speak for themselves—I must, however, for the present, advert to some parts of them—"I called upon my Right Honorable relation in his joint characters of principal Conservator of the Peace of the County, and as a Privy Counsellor, to visit my place, and make enquiry into the outrages and injuries committed upon my person and my estate, &c."—With this request he *repeatedly* promised compliance, but, after keeping me at home for six Sundays * (the only days I durst venture abroad to look over my devastated lands, and form some plans for their future occupancy,) he never, 'till *this day*, took the smallest notice of his engagements; this day, indeed, he has taken a most praise-worthy notice, he has sent his Bailiffs to seize (who are at this moment prowling round my demesne) what they could find; person, I understand, as well as property—the latter (except some new made hay) they carried off before, and sold as they thought proper—the former, God be praised, I have taken care to secure from their reach. (It will soon be seen how much I had deceived myself in this *security*) "To this moment I am kept in the dark, as to the amount of the demand this miscreant Attorney has furbished up against me—from a paper without name, given to a countryman in my neighbourhood, by *one* of my Right Honorable Relations Deputies, (for in order to have his Sheriffship particularly distinguished, he has *two*) I am left to suppose the debt is, £114 3s. 6d. the Bailiffs have already taken away effects to the amount of upwards of £140—of this, *they have given me no account whatsoever*, nor, will tell what they mean farther to extort from me! I do not, Sir, expect that this relation will have any other beneficial effect, then merely to shew the grounds of those Sheriff Publications, my Right Honorable relation has so

* Sir John Stewart fixed on Sundays for his visit, assigning as the reason, "least he might be obliged to take me into custody, was he known to be with me on any other day."

plentifully circulated through the town of Dungannon, and its neighbourhood, and to assure my Right Honorable Relation, that, at a *fit moment*, the whole of this business shall be laid before that part of the public, whose good opinion I take for granted, he is anxious to obtain." (I meant before the general election; I have however, been too late, owing to causes which I could not controul, but, which the public have no right to be troubled with a detail of) If the detail is honorable to him, I hope he will receive all the benefit of it, if it is the reverse to me, I desire no indulgence; but of this he may rest assured, I will make an * effort to obtain reparation for myself and the public, for, what I think I may be able to shew, notwithstanding his great legal knowlege, to be a violation of an express act of parliament, his *other* "violations" his friends and the public will decide upon—that is to say, *if he has committed any other violations*.—Your readers Sir, are to form their opinion upon that point; they will, however, admit, that the above hint given to my Right Honorable relation (indeed I privately before apprized him of it) will exonerate me, at least, from having acted with *treachery*—I cannot conclude without availing myself of the opportunity to mention, that, after my Right Honorable Relation had stripped my Demesne of every four-footed animal, which villainy and robbery had left me, I gave permission to a late servant of mine to graze a fine young horse upon it; the monsters, by whom I am surrounded, (and I trust in Heaven, they are not to be equalled in any other part of the kingdom) upon the 12th of July poisoned him—I merely mention this circumstance, not as it relates to me, (however, I feel in conscience bound to have the poor man's loss made up to him) but, as a general concern, which may excite a spirit of enquiry that might terminate in the expulsion of the gang I allude to.

I remain Sir, &c.

R. WILSON."

Owena-Lodge.—August 7, 1809.

* I have hitherto failed in my efforts, but, do not give them up, as I think it possible I may find an Attorney, who will not be affrighted out of his duty by my Right Honorable relations' power.

P. S. I OUGHT to have observed, that, the Bailiff on seizing my cattle committed a most wanton and gross assault upon a poor man who was attending a car; this, with other acts of misconduct, my Right Honorable relation promised, "personally to enquire into, and that in the mean time, *one* of his under Sheriff's should attend me for the purpose."—This, like other promises, tho' made near three months since, has never been performed!"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ULSTER CHRONICLE, DUNGANNON:

I SHALL now endeavour to bring this truly disgusting part of my narrative, to as speedy a termination as possible—unable to know what was expected from me, I implored the principal of the Bailiffs to accept of security, 'till the account could be ascertained; this, too, was refused, and thus was I kept from early in May, 'till the latter end of September, in a state of actual imprisonment; when one morning as I was stepping out of my study, Moore, one of the tenants, who had a part in the suit, and another fellow of the most abandoned character, having concealed themselves in a water closet, rushed upon me, and knocked me down, Moore got upon me, whilst the tenant set his foot upon my hand, as he said, "for the purpose of nailing me;"—indeed he did so effectually, as I have lost the use of one of my fingers, in consequence of the pressure of the nails in his shoe, upon my hand—I perceived they were all armed; I told Moore, that, as I conceived he was authorized to arrest me, I would make no resistance, and begged he would not murder me.—The noise brought some of the servants to the rooms when Moore permitted me to rise.—After offering to give an order for whatever amount the debt they had against me came to, upon one of themselves, (the tenants) but which was refused, I set off *on foot* to Dungannon with him, about five miles distance, for, in order to make their triumph as complete as possible, they took me the most public (and longest) road.—During the journey I was insulted every way the monsters could devise, and every effort

was used by them, in order to provoke me, and the two servants I made accompany me, for fear of accidents, to do or say something which would warrant them to use their fire arms, "to secure their prisoner;" they had nearly succeeded with the younger of the servants, but, I implored him, in a whisper, not to give them a pretence for the perpetration of their evident purpose.—After various delays, they at last deposited me in the prison—I ought to have observed, that, before I set off, a Sheriff's Officer took possession of my house, saying, he had also, an execution against my goods.—I lay that night in a vault in the prison; a friend was with me early in the morning, with money to pay what the gaoler demanded, which was somewhat about £50, as near as I can recollect, including fees—of the friend to whom I allude, I dare not speak my sentiments, for fear of offending his genuine modesty; at least I must not mention his name—indeed, to say that virtue ~~and~~ him is personified, is sufficient to identify him.—It may be truly said of him, as was once of another divine, "that it pleases heaven to extend his life, as a blessing to mankind, it is a constant illustration of the principles he teaches; not a single instance of his conduct ever contradicting his precepts, as near as human weakness can act up to divine perfections." To possess the friendship of such a man is the proudest circumstance of my history, and I glory in the possession! Much pains have been taken to deprive me of his affection, but, well acquainted though he is with all the errors of my youth, he feels persuaded, (and I trust he is warranted in being so) that my heart is free from a vicious thought!

It is an act of justice here to state a fact, which I think does honor to Lord Northland, highly as I condemn that nobleman's conduct in many instances, and necessarily as I found it my duty to reprobate it, yet, I take this occasion to declare (and the circumstance I am about to mention will tend to confirm my opinion) that he is actuated by a love of justice in his Magisterial Ministry, but, unhappily he has given himself up to this infernal faction of Orangemen, who warp his natural disposition to *do right*—I understand, that in the morning after my confinement, he

rode up to the prison, and “desired to know from the gaoler, whether or not, I was that day to get out?” Adding, (as the gaoler reported to me) “that he would not for five hundred pounds have me in such a place, and were it not for my attachment to the Catholics, there was nothing he would not do to serve me, &c.”—Upon this report of his Lordship’s expression of feeling for me, I held it my duty to write him a letter of thanks; I am sorry in the spirit of truth to add, that his Lordship’s kind wishes to serve me, were soon extinguished.

BEFORE I left the prison I sent for Mr. Armstrong, Lord Northland’s Agent, and lodged examinations against Moore and his associates, at the same time observing “that I hoped these examinations would not be thrown aside, as, I, from former circumstances, had reason to expect, unless he took particular care of them.”—He promised me he would take care of them, and honorably kept his word, although, I know management was employed to smother them, at least, to make them of no effect.—In order not to interrupt the thread of my narrative, I will, though out of regular order, finish this part of Moore’s history; I shall have occasion again, however, to notice him.—This man endeavoured to get Mr. Armstrong to take *his* examinations against me, “for an assault upon him and his friends,” Mr. Armstrong saw the infamy of the man in too decided a point of view to comply with his desire; he then went off to Auchnacloy, to a person of his name, (and who, he formerly had told me was his relation) a shop-keeper in that town, and *Magistrate*, this liberal and humane man, without summons or enquiry of any sort, but the oath of his respectable relation, issued a warrant against me, this warrant Moore kept in his possession ’till the sessions; as I was going through the street of Dungannon, I was seized by the collar by a Constable, who told me “I was his and the King’s prisoner,” after extricating myself from his gripe, I desired to be brought before a Magistrate, he carried me to Mr. Armstrong, who discharged me upon my giving bail, which I brought with me; Moore’s trial came on, and the tenants, (the other fellow,

could not be got) after every pains taken by *some* of the Jury, to acquit Moore and his associates, he was, however, brought in guilty; then my trial came on, (not for Moore's charges, that was for the assizes) for an assault upon the tenant, as also, one for an assault made upon him by my groom, a very old man, and nearly blind; acquittals followed, for the absurdity of the charges were so manifest, that the Bench scouted it—Moore's sentence and the tenant's, was three months imprisonment, and security to keep the peace towards me, I believe, for ever—I do not mean to impeach the sentence, under *all considerations*, perhaps, it was as much as I had a right to expect, but I cannot help remarking, that about a year before, a * man (*a Roman Catholic*) was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment, for an assault upon a driver of the artillery, with whom he had a quarrel about a *sweet-heart*, although the young man had a most excellent character, and gave some proof of his being at a distance when the assault was sworn to have been committed—I do not mean to say that the proof was conclusive, but with the young man's character, I, at the time, conceived, should have had some weight towards shortening his confinement; it did not, however, *for one single hour*.

I ATTENDED at the succeeding assizes in Omagh, and waited there the whole of the week, when enquiring from one of the Grand Jurors, "if any indictment was formed upon Moore's examination," he told me not, and that I might go home, for tho' the Judge was to return from Lifford, (I think he said) it was only for the purpose of finishing some trifling matter, which could not in the course of that day be got through—I accordingly set off the next day, but behold, Mr. Moore's business was brought on the ensuing week, and I was very near, as I heard afterwards, being convicted on account of my absence! however, the learned Judge thought proper to refer the matter back to the sessions, in consequence of being acquainted with Moore's conviction, on account of an assault upon me, at

* Vid. "Narrative,"

the very time he swore one against me, *upon him!*—Mr. Moore, however, never followed up his charge; but, as will be seen in its proper place, he soon revenged himself for this disappointment to him and his worthy Magistrate cousin—I am just to remark of this latter man, that, in my life I never saw him, or, 'till this warrant took place, never heard of him, except when Moore spoke of him as his relation.

DURING the time of the executions which I have before spoken of, I was roused out of my bed a little before day, by a cry of fire—I own I looked upon this alarm as intended to draw me out of the house, in order that my Right Honorable Relation's bailiffs might get hold of me; I was soon undeceived by the brilliancy of the flame, I hurried on my cloaths, and taking my gun, ran to the part from whence the fire appeared to issue; it was in my stable yard, in which were assembled a great number of people, who were making as much effort as possible to save the offices, but in vain, they were in a few moments consumed to ashes, a range extending near ninety feet, of as well fitted up stables, &c. as any in the country, and an immense quantity of hay in the lofts, fortunately there were no horses in them—I have before observed that my Right Honorable Relation's officers had swept off every four footed beast I possessed! I conceived that this was a fit occasion again to apply to government, as I was in possession of good ground to prove that this last calamity could be brought home to Moore and his gang—I took no copy of this letter to the Duke of Richmond, which I believe the "*Lucidas ordo*," had very little share in—it was not however, attended to by his Grace—upon the burning of my farm-houses, I had been informed of my right to call upon the county for compensation, but was "too late, in pursuing the necessary steps."—Upon the present occasion, however, I took care that objection should not be urged against me—I attended the next assizes with my petition for one thousand pounds, which, on account of the then high price of timber, and the severe loss I must suffer until the offices were rebuilt, I was, upon consultation with intelligent people, induced to

claim—the Jury examined me and my witnesses strictly, and with great propriety, but, after I had been dismissed, Moore and the tenant, whom I have before often alluded to, were examined, these two men were at that time confined in Omagh gaol, on account of their assault upon me—I asked one of the Grand Jury afterwards, “what was the effect of these fellows examination?” he answered without hesitation, (though not telling me to what point they had been examined) that “*the Grand Jury considered them as two most abandoned villains.*”—This was, I think, the last day of the assizes, but, as I before observed, a Judge was to return to finish some business which could not be got through ’till after Lifford assizes—the Juror told me there would not be any necessity for my staying, as Moore’s charge had not been brought forward; I adverted to this before, and need not make any farther reference to it—but lo! upon the Judge’s return, not only Moore’s particular business was brought forward, but a traverse entered against my presentment, by one of Moore’s associates; I should have mentioned that the Grand Jury allowed me £400, which, though far below my first claim, I felt satisfied with, considering the great load of taxes with which at that assizes, the people were prostrated, I may say to the earth with—well, in consequence of this traverse, I was obliged to attend at the next assizes, to have my presentment established—I must here remark, that the nominal traverser was a man, whom I had obliged to refund a considerable sum of money he had defrauded an unfortunate Roman Catholic of, this, of course, was not to be forgiven.—On the morning after my arrival at Omagh, as I was on my way to the Court-house, I was seized upon for a debt of some hundred pounds, and instantly hurried into the gaol—as soon as the Court broke up, I sent for Mr. Spillar, the respectable professional gentleman I have before spoken of, he immediately drew up a petition to the Judge, (Mr. Bush, the Solicitor General, presided in the Court where the traverse was to be tried) in consequence of this petition, the Judge ordered me to the Court; I was conveyed from the Gaol to the Court-house,

near an English mile distant, by some of the officers of the prison, *having soldiers, with fixed bayonets, on each side of me!* The Judge reprimanded the under Sheriff for his committing to prison a person who was attending the assizes, upon a regular process, the under Sheriff (the same worthy gentleman whom I have before spoken of) made a very wretched excuse, particularly, *as he had appointed the famous Moore and the traverser, especial bailiffs*, for this equitable purpose—I conceived it right to acquaint the Judge with the nature of the debt I had been arrested for, “that I had unfortunately set my hand to a note for a friend of mine, (the brother of an English Earl, then detained a prisoner in France,) which he had passed for a gambling debt, that I did not mean to say that the party who had ordered the arrest, was not justly entitled to his demand, which I certainly would, at a proper time have paid, the more particularly, as he had behaved (knowing the circumstance of my case) with great kindness towards me, &c. &c.—I must just observe here, upon a fact which my reader will not think irrelevant, that I wrote to England to know “how it happened, that a person who had treated me with so much indulgence, could act so harshly towards me in the situation which he knew I was then, in consequence of the great losses I had suffered,”—I was immediately answered, “*that the measure had been adopted on account of certain information conveyed to the creditor, relative to me, from Ireland!!!!*—The trial of the traverse proceeded, Moore, supported by a hoary villain and a brother-in-law of the tenant, (who, for fear of my having executed against him a bench warrant, on account of assisting in a profligate attempt of Moore’s, to extort a sum of money from me, on the score of wages, although I had proved against him a debt of several pounds, did not venture to present himself) Moore’s associate in his attempt to murder me—these two men stated themselves to be carpenters, one swore “my loss was (as well as I recollect) not more than thirty-two pounds some shillings,” the other deposed that “he himself, had offered to build the offices (the carpenter work, and find all materials) for

thirty-two pounds, but that I *refused*, saying it was too much."—Moore swore that "I had some time before, wanted him to burn the offices, because, as I wanted money, I said to him, that I would get from the Courts £100."—The testimony of these men excited indignation; the absurdity of it was, if possible, greater than its turpitude—the learned Judge properly and ably, commented upon it—a gentleman who had been in *one* of the stables, openly declared the infamy of the witnesses, (who were well known to him) and swore (for he permitted himself to be examined, though not summoned by me) that, from what he had seen of the offices, without pretending to understand any thing of building, such offices could not be repaired for less than three hundred pounds, &c.—All I shall add to this gentleman's evidence is, that upon calculation, (at the price timber was in that year) I could not restore these offices, *merely the timber part*, for so little as *four hundred pounds*.—The Judge charged the Jury—'tis unnecessary for me to pronounce any eulogy upon Mr. Bush, I never saw him before, all I shall say about him is, that his conduct upon that occasion proved that he possessed a heart as feeling as his head was able! The Jury retired, and to the utter astonishment of the Court, as well as the audience, gave me a verdict for one hundred pounds, which sum left me minus, besides the loss of my offices, of about ten pounds, when the expences attending the petition and traverse were paid! The Judge rose from his seat, apparently, much agitated, and called to the under Sheriff, to desire him, in case he should want another Jury, not to let any of this one be upon it.—I determined not to comment, but state plain facts; I believe it is here completely unnecessary.

I SHOULD before have adverted to a question asked me by a Grand Juror, upon my examination, which I hope I may be permitted, (without subjecting myself to a charge of breaking through my determination, "not to comment") to make a few observations, occasioned by a Juror's question, he demanded of me, "whether or not, (in case it had been possible to save my offices,) I was sufficiently popular, to have the people exert themselves to extinguish the flames,"

unexpected as this most extraordinary question was, I had just presence of mind to reply, "that I was persuaded there was no man in that room more popular in the part of the country I resided in, then I, except with the knot of villains who were bent on my destruction." As I never saw this gentleman before, I am not able *exactly* to determine who he is, but from my description of his person, I had been taught to think he was a branch of a famous Orange stock.

SHAKESPEARE says, "that there is a time when modest merit may commend itself," I trust my liberal minded reader will see that that time is now arrived with regard to me, if he does, he will admit my apology for speaking of myself in the manner I am now going to do—I here call upon that honorable Juror, and the whole fraternity of Orangemen, to prove one single instance of my life, where I ever omitted the exercise of an act of humanity or benevolence *within my reach*; or produce one single object who ever demanded any assistance, *in any way*, who departed from my door without a proof of my charity, even, when by that faction I was reduced to a state which nearly made *myself* an object of benevolence! The occasion alone can justify this language.

I CONCEIVED this would be a fit moment to engage the attention of the Lord Chancellor, to my complaint of "having been removed from the Magistracy without any assigned cause."

I addressed the following letter to his Lordship:

"MY LORD,

"My having so long deferred addressing myself to your Lordship upon the subject which has occasioned you the trouble of this letter, may, at the first glance, throw some shade of inconsistency upon me; but when your Lordship will perceive that the postponement arose from my conviction that the time *might, at last arrive*, when I could enter upon it with better effect, than prior circum-

stances permitted me to expect, I should at the apparently more proper period, your Lordship will free me from that charge.

“AN enquiry into certain circumstances which took place this week, at the Assizes of Omagh, with regard to me, will give your Lordship an opportunity of being convinced that you have been induced by malignant representations, to act towards me in a manner opposite to what your sentiments of honour, as well as public duty, would have dictated—I allude to “your erasure of my name from the Commission of the Peace;” your Lordship will presently see, *why* I have fixed upon *this* as the moment for *demanding a knowledge of the grounds upon which that removal was founded, and which was equally and happily calculated to insult my person, and stamp a reproach upon my reputation?* When I make this demand, I repeat my assurance, that, I attribute your conduct towards me, *solely* to misrepresentation; for I have no hesitation in saying, that I have a full persuasion you acted upon what you were taught to consider, *solid proof of my delinquency*.—The irritation, I, at the time, felt, urged me to expressions of resentment, which I shall be truly happy to be enabled by your Lordship to soften and retract: all, my Lord, I require, is, to know “*why your Lordship was led to consider me as an improper person to exercise the duty of a County Magistrate?*” This is not the time for me to discuss the conduct of others, but with regard to myself, I boldly assert, that, my administration of justice will stand the severest scrutiny, *in every point of view, (with the exception of ability)* that my activity, impartiality, humanity and INCORRUPTABILITY, are by every individual in my district, acknowledged, and their deprivation of them deplored! except, indeed, by the set of monsters who, *before* my ministry, (and *since* my removal) with DISGRACEFUL impunity, outraged every law, divine and human! On this head your Lordship will soon have an opportunity of obtaining most authentic information.

“LEAST your Lordship might misconceive the *direct* jet of my question, I must observe, that it has *no relation whatever* to my restoration; for though my whole life will

prove my devotion to the public good, even that consideration, dear as it is to my heart, cannot influence me to resume a situation which I was deemed unworthy to fill, until the foul stain basely attempted to be cast upon my character, is completely wiped away.

“How that is to be done, is a point upon which your Lordship and I may possibly have a different feeling—I shall therefore, wave, in the present stage at least, any farther allusion to it.—I refer your Lordship to the Judge before whom I was *compelled* to appear at Omagh—although he could be made acquainted with (from the nature of the case) but a small portion of my calamities, yet, he heard sufficient to warrant my appeal to him, as “*believing me to be a most injured and persecuted man.*”—The Judge I allude to is Mr. Bush, the Solicitor General—my panegyric upon that gentleman, can add *but* little to what, I am persuaded, your Lordship’s knowledge of him enables you to express—I cannot, however, refrain from saying, that even in the little I saw of him, I perceived the most splendid talents embellished by the finest feelings, and the most benign heart!

“I HAVE this day written to a noble Relation in England, (also a connection of the Duke of Richmond’s) to request the Lord Lieutenant “to make enquiry, through the Solicitor General, into my situation;” the result, my Lord, I look up to with proud confidence; for whatever my failings may be, (and numberless I admit they are) my honour, my integrity, my truth, & *my attachment to the British Constitution*, challenge the malignancy of hell to dispute them—the occasion will justify this encomium upon myself—had I not been basely and *treacherously* represented, I am satisfied your Lordship, as well as the Duke of Richmond, would have held my services in a very different point of estimation than you have *both* appeared to consider them.

I have the honor to be, &c.

R. WILSON.”

Owena-Lodge—August 23, 1810.

LORD MANNERS.

THE learned Lord took no notice of this letter—I wrote a second to him—dignified silence.—Some deliberate murders committed in my neighbourhood, and the conduct of the Benburb Yeomen, induced me to make a third trial, by telling him, that in justice to my reputation and honour, I must, however unwilling, commit to publication a statement of my injuries, and the apathy of government, &c. &c.

I MENTIONED in a former letter to Lord Manners, that I had written to a noble Relation on the subject of my request for investigation, &c.—’Tis right that the reader should attentively consider the result of this letter—my noble Relation immediately replied to my letter, and after expressing his sorrow for my calamities, told me “ he directed his son to forward my wishes to his friend the Duke of Richmond ;” upon my receipt of this letter, I thought it would not be amiss to inform the Duke of Richmond of it, and quoted the part which related to his Grace.—His Grace, like his *conscience keeper*, kept profound silence—I shortly after wrote to my noble Relation, stating, “ that I had received no communication from the Duke of Richmond, at the same time intreating him to acquaint me with the Lord Lieutenant’s sentiments upon his son’s letter.”—No answer from my noble Relation.—I wrote again—no answer.—However, about three months after, I received an account of my noble Relation’s death ; of course I attributed his silence to his illness—after a certain time, when decency permitted me, I applied to the son, requesting him to inform me what the Duke of Richmond had said to the letter he had written to him, on the subject of my wishes ? My noble Relation told me, “ that he did not recollect the Duke of Richmond’s answer, but that it was a *civil one* ;” this was all he said upon that part of the subject—I wrote to him again, saying, “ that I did not doubt of the Duke of Richmond’s civility to him,” but, that was not the question—I wanted to know what he said about me, as on that question would depend the necessity I felt myself under to make a public appeal, to rescue my reputation from the reflections the conduct of government had subjected it to ? his reply was

pretty much to the same effect—he did not recollect what the Duke of Richmond had said, but that he was “civil” in his letter, and that “he himself, did not like to interfere with the Irish government.” Still my noble Relation’s answers did not satisfy me—perhaps the reader will think it would have been very extraordinary if they had—I wrote again.—My noble Relations answer was, however, at last conclusive, “*he would not interfere with the Irish government;*” the only observation I shall make upon the above is, that my noble Relation and the Duke of Richmond have ever been upon the most intimate footing of friendship, that my noble Relation was in Ireland with his regiment, and, though I pressed him to come, even for a few hours, to my house, (from whence he was not distant more than thirty miles) *he would not come near me, nor, did he visit his friend the Duke of Richmond*—his motives I own, I am well convinced of, but consistent with what I determined at the commencement of this Pamphlet, I will not attempt to bias the judgment of my reader; I will relate only simple facts, *which I possess original documents to substantiate*, and which documents I will most willingly shew to any person who either doubts what I say, or may think I have garbled them to suit my own purposes; and I am well satisfied, that it will appear upon a perusal of them, that I have *withheld* much matter which would have encreased the effect, (I certainly am not indifferent) my publication should produce.

About this period, or shortly after, I wrote the following letter to Lord Liverpool:

“MY LORD,

“THERE are two grounds upon which I found a belief that this letter will fail in its object; first, as it tends to cast severe reflections upon the conduct of your Lordship’s friends, and next, because it is liable to a charge of *neglect of form*—the former, however, I wish to hope, *justice* will oppose itself to, and the latter, *policy*.

“I CAN do no more in the limits of a letter, than merely to give an outline of the facts to which I am desirous to draw your Lordship’s attention, leaving a detail

of them 'till either your Lordship's reply, or decided silence, points out a more consistent occasion.—In order to give your Lordship, however, in the mean time, a clue to enquiry, I shall commence my abstract by acquainting your Lordship, that, about nine years since, in consequence of my losing my seat in Parliament, (through means which I believe every one, acquainted with the facts, will admit were highly disgraceful) I gave up my property in England, for the advantage of my children, and to satisfy certain pecuniary demands upon it—retiring to a small estate in this kingdom, which devolved to me on the death of my mother—my intention was, *never to re-enter into the world, but to cultivate and improve the small part of my fortune which I had reserved to myself.*—I had been but a short time in this country 'till I perceived that a most detestable faction was forcing the great body of the people, *in self defence*, to rebellion—I was courted to become a member of that faction, but, *as I never, either in or out of Parliament, would enlist myself into any party*, so I found no difficulty in refusing to enter into one, which I was *convinced* was equally impolitic and inhuman.—*I fulfilled the duty of a Magistrate, conformable to the oath I took upon becoming one—I protected the oppressed!* in a word, *I brought down the vengeance of the Orange party upon me!* I was put to a considerable expence to defend myself against the most *foolish*, as well as *wicked*, attempt to stain my Magisterial character.—I told the then Attorney General, “that government would be ashamed of having permitted itself to become the dupe of such a malignant prosecution,”—the event justified the truth of this assertion.—My enemies failed in every thing, except putting me to trouble and expence! In the mean time, however, many acts of violence were attempted against my person, and my timber, which at this day, (had it been left untouched) would have been well worth at least twelve thousand pounds, was entirely destroyed! All this I bore with tolerable patience, resting in the expectation, that when I could prevail upon government to investigate the state of the country, my injuries, as far as the nature of them permitted, would be redressed—of this opinion I was, when the Duke of Richmond arrived in

Ireland.—From some personal acquaintance with him, and distant family connection, I flattered myself with the expectation that my private as well as public objects would be attended to—but, so far from it, that without any positive or implied charge of misconduct, I was removed from the Commission of the Peace!! I endeavoured, in vain, to find out the cause.—A sullen, and, I take leave to say, a most unwarrantable and unbecoming silence was preserved.—Thus was I deprived of the only fence I had against the infernal monsters who had not only destroyed a great part of my property, but had repeatedly attempted to assassinate me!—*Ruin and devastation became the orders of the day!* five of my best farm houses were burned to the ground—several acres of thriving plantations totally destroyed—my offices (very valuable ones, and nearly new) were with a great quantity of hay, burned—my own house, also new, almost torn to pieces—efforts to assassinate me redoubled! In this situation I first endeavoured to influence the Magistracy to exertion—composed as it is in this part of the country, it could not be expected that I should receive much satisfaction—indeed none at all.—I applied repeatedly to government—after a considerable length of time, at last the Duke of Richmond sent the General of the district (General Michel) “to enquire into my situation;”—this gentleman took a personal view of *part* of the devastations committed upon my property; “sufficient” as he told me, “to warrant his report to government, that the treatment I had received was disgraceful to the country.”—The last time General Michel was with me he said “government had put an end to his commission, and that he was desired to interfere no farther than to send the two nearest Magistrates to take my examinations.”—The Magistrates did call upon me; two of the very men whose conduct was most exceptionable, on every account, and against whom I had already shewn causes sufficiently cogent to have them removed from office! and here the matter rested, now above three years ago, I believe—I have frequently since, endeavoured to engage the attention of government upon renewed attempts against my person and property, in vain—I ventured to appeal for the truth of my representations to a learned gentleman, (as far

as the occasion permitted) the Solicitor General, who happened to try a cause against me, and who marked the proceedings of the party who opposed me, with the severest censure—the same silence continued, and I have been now for several years, in a situation, which I take upon me to say, is not to be paralleled in Turkey!

“ABOUT a year since I wrote to a noble Relation, the Duke of ———, requesting him to interest the Duke of Richmond in my affairs—His Grace informed me “that he had desired his Son, (the present Duke) who was in habits of friendship with the Duke of Richmond, to write to him about me, &c.”—The Duke’s long illness prevented his acting as I am persuaded he would otherwise have done; the reply therefore, to his Son’s letter I did not receive.—His Son a few days ago, wrote, to say, “that all he recollects of the reply to his letter was, *that it was civil*, but can give me no satisfaction as to my object”—Now, my Lord, under all these circumstances, (*not one of which can in any way be controverted*) what am I to do?—Why, my Lord, the only thing that remains for me, is, if your Lordship does not actively interfere, to give the public a distinct detail of my sufferings, and the conduct of the Irish administration, thereby to free myself from the charges which my enemies, by way of justifying themselves, (*“proprium humani ingenii est odisse quem læseris”*) falsely urge against my reputation—this, my Lord, you will admit, is not only advisable, but highly incumbent.—Although it is not my intention to go into any particular detail of my conduct in the present momentous crisis, I cannot resist saying a little, by way of giving your Lordship an insight into my politics.—Upon the change of administration, about five years since, I wrote to an old friend of mine, (as I *once* taught myself to consider him) Lord Eldon, and gave him my opinion upon the measures which I conceived it would be wise to pursue, in the *then* situation of this country—my letter* had not the effect I wished—if it had been acted upon, I confess I am apt to think, *matters would not be in the state they are*.—His Lordship never replied to this letter, although when I last saw him, he wished me to inform him “of the way things went on in Ireland,”—I

* Vid. Narrative, Page 22.

own I always thought the claims of the Roman Catholics were founded in *policy* as well as justice; but in case government thought it unwise to grant those claims, I pointed out to Lord Eldon what I *knew* would keep this country—I mean the *great mass of people*, in temper—my opinion has not only been unattended to, but its *opposite* persevered in.—The Irish have ever been a disunited people.—History proves this from our earliest knowledge of them.—It was left, *as the great work*, to the Duke of Richmond and Lord Manners, to give them *one mind*.—They, with the aid of certain Members of both Houses of Parliament, have succeeded—I take upon me to say, there is a temper and steadiness now in this kingdom, which, spight of every obstacle, will carry their point—but, this is a subject, in the present state of my intercourse with your Lordship, which it would not be proper to enlarge upon—I shall now my Lord wind up, with observing that the additional injuries I had received, (from being put out of the Commission of the Peace, for a conduct which merited the gratitude of government instead of its insult) led me formerly to animadvert *publicly* upon the Duke of Richmond and Lord Manners.—The continued persecution I was subjected to through their treatment of me, had determined me to make another public appeal—I withhold my publication 'till I know the result of the D—— of ———'s application, because I wish (knowing as I do, *better, my Lord, than any of your Colleagues, in or out of Ireland*, the true state of this country) not to increase the animosity *forced* against government at this perilous moment, and which it is impossible but a representation of my persecutions must inflame—this, my Lord, is a strong principle with me, but my fame is a still dearer one—every other consideration I might get over, but *that, my Lord, I will hold by*—your Lordship may perhaps treat this letter with contempt; I do not hesitate to say, that the day will arrive when you will regret the doing so.

I have the honor to be, &c.

H

R. WILSON."

Owna-Lodge,—Date forget, I believe about Nov. 1812.

THERE are many circumstances with regard to my persecutions, which certainly would be considered as interesting, but which I designedly suppress, least I should be charged with exaggeration; besides, I feel it incumbent upon me to devote a small space to vindicate myself from the infamous calumnies so industriously spread abroad, for the purpose of destroying the only thing valuable which remains to me—character—every circumstance of my youthful follies are harrowed up—every engine set to work, to entrap me.—Not long since, a conspiracy was formed in a quarter where one would suppose, from the *profession* of the party, it was least to be expected—it succeeded in part—my weak side *joined*, I may say, in the design; I was freed from the effect of it by an event which, *in other circumstances*, I should have deplored—I was sinking into the grave, when the knowledge of that event, restored me to life! This is all I shall say, (and I trust I shall never be required to go into particulars) in the hope that the necessity of discontinuing their calumnies, will have weight—I have been taxed with having committed various seductions—I here assert, and defy any one to contradict me, that in the whole course of my life, *I never gave reason to any woman to charge me with that foulest and most unmanly of crimes!*

WITH regard to the patriotism of my politics, and to my *disinterestedness*, I throw down my gauntlet with equal boldness—I conceive I own, saying thus much, as a debt due to the public as well as myself; for it has ever been my fixed opinion, that, the man who is profligate in *private* life, never can be entitled to the character of a virtuous *public* one.—Let my calumniators take a view of my occupation, what will they find? My mornings employed *actually in labour*, and my evenings with my children! When the weather confined me within doors, I was much employed in reading, but that resource my infernal tormentors robbed me of! My difficulties obliged me to part with the only comfort (except my children) I had been anxious to preserve—I have, however, a consolation in thinking that a considerable part of my library is possessed by a learned gentleman who well knows the value

of books, and who had generously stepped forward at a very critical moment, to free me from one of these fabricated debts, which *perjury and Orange judgment* decreed against me.—I will detain my reader but one moment more, in observing upon matters which relates personally to myself; I am to implore the public not give credit to any anonymous charges against me, or illiberal criticism upon a production, which has not taken quite six days in its composition.—the public will the rather yield to this request, when I pledge myself to substantiate every tittle contained in this Pamphlet, if called upon by any person signing his real name, and should I fail in doing so, then let the severest judgment be pronounced against me, and my name be for ever consigned to infamy!

I remain the Public's faithful Servant,

R. WILSON."

Dublin, March 9, 1813.

APPENDIX.

I STATED in a former Pamphlet, that I would, at a proper time, give an account of a “most infamous conspiracy entered into, to heap the vengeance of government upon, and degrade me, as a Magistrate.” The source of this conspiracy is to be traced to the following circumstance: a Clergyman made a complaint to me “of various violations of the Road Act in his neighbourhood, and *insisted* upon my putting the law in force against the aggressors;” I attended with him, to view the nuisances he complained of, but, found that ignorance, rather than contumacy, occasioned their offence, and therefore fined only one person, who certainly could not be ignorant of his transgressing the law.—The Clergyman appeared not well pleased with my lenity, and the more so, as he had “been charged by some of his offending parishioners, *with hard heartedness, and want of charity.*”—Not long after this, I happened to ride past the Clergyman’s gate, where I saw a most enormous dunghill, half covering the road; he was abroad, but his servant told me “the dunghill should be immediately removed,” I was satisfied with this assurance, the more particularly, as the Clergyman being abroad, it was possible the nuisance was owing to his servants—however, about a fortnight from this time, I had occasion again to pass by the Reverend Gentleman’s gate, when, instead of finding the dunghill removed, I saw it was considerably encreased—I again sent for his servant, who pleaded as his excuse, that, “his master declared he would not have it removed;” I then thought all farther delicacy unnecessary, and wrote to the Reverend Gentleman to say, “that I had fined

him, *not having two measures of justice*, and that besides the fine of ten shillings, I would dispose of his manure in the manner the law empowered me," if not immediately taken off the road—the fine was not paid, and I actually appointed people to take away the dung, "and apply it to their own uses," this offer was *ardently* accepted of; but the Reverend Gentleman thought proper to remove his dunghill during the night, to a statutable distance from the centre of the road—however, that did not satisfy me, and I levied a fine upon his chattles, "on account of his suffering the nuisance to remain after due notice."—I had actually ordered some of his property to be seized for this purpose, but the constable, a brother Orangeman, did not go to extremities—the truth is, I gave him private orders to be lenient, though I was determined not to suffer my authority to be insulted—I was threatened with prosecutions by the Divine, and a most stupid manifesto I may call it, was sent to me, declaratory of his hostile intentions—it may be easily conceived that I *despised* his threat, as much as he had forced me to *detest* his character; by the management of two Orange Magistrates, and the Orange Constable, he got his property, (which by the bye, I am sure, never was removed) and kept me at bay, waiting for his threatened prosecution.—Finding, however, that would not answer, fruitful in expedients, he adopted another plan to worry and injure me, better suited to his purpose, and as it turned out infinitely more effectual, as to pecuniary effect—he commenced his operations by measuring the distance of the poor peoples dunghills from the centre of the road, in order to shew "my partiality in not fining them."—I am here to remark, that for a long time before the Clergyman's complaint, I had taken great pains to induce the people to abandon the lazy custom of throwing out their dirt at their doors, near the road; in some instances I prevailed, but habit had laid such hold, that I found it would take *time* to effect a purpose equally useful to the individuals themselves and the public—however, I now perceived I must act with less leniency; I fined several, all such as were obstinate—lessened the fines of others, and such as were objects of compassion, remitted

the fine, with an admonition “to be more careful for the future.” So far the meek Divine went on tolerably well, but he was not satisfied, he had not been able to make me sufficiently unpopular for his purpose; he changed his measures, and began to *weep* with his parishioners, “for my tyrannical conduct towards them,” and in his own church yard, after he had read the funeral service, he made a speech to the people, concluding with an “*offer to support any of them who would charge me with oppression;*” of course, this could not fail of having some effect upon those who were irritated at my exaction of a fine, which he himself, *be it recollected*, absolutely occasioned me to levy—when he had seduced a sufficient number to answer his grand object, he sent them to the two Magistrates I have so often alluded to, who “nothing loth,” took their examinations, “charging me with tyranny,” declaring that they were not guilty of the offence I had punished them for, and one of them, (the man I have mentioned as the traverser of my presentment) sore at my having forced him to refund a sum of money he had robbed a poor Roman Catholic of, deposed, that “*I had pocketed the money myself.*”—I am here to observe, that, the celebrated *James Moore* was then acting for me as Constable.—Of this latter attack upon me, I was kept in profound ignorance, though I was then living in the *closest* friendship with one of those Magistrates, whose real character I was ignorant of, ’till this transaction disclosed it—I never had a suspicion of what was going forward, ’till a regular prosecution was commenced against me, in the name of a Governor * of the County; I immediately set off to Dublin, to consult with my Solicitor, Mr. Spillar; what was to be done? I take this opportunity of expressing my obligation to that gentleman, and my deep regret that his connections have stood in the way of the continuance of his professional assistance.—I luckily preserved a memorandum of all the money I received upon account of these fines, (and my disbursements) with the persons names to whom I had distributed it—I say “luckily,” for I had never done so before, not thinking

* Lord Northland.

it possible such a miserable peculation could be laid to any gentleman's charge; my reason for then doing so, was in consequence of my having paid away much more than I received, not being always able to resist the claims of poverty, and did not choose to have it supposed, that I was giving away other people's money, when, in fact, it was my own—be that as it may, I furnished an exact account, upon oath, of all the money I had received, with the persons names to whom I had given it; when it appeared, that, notwithstanding all my care *not to pay away more than I received*, I actually *exceeded the receipts by a disbursement of twenty shillings, exclusive of ten shillings* I fined myself, for the neglect of my own servants! I could not help telling the then Attorney General, (Mr. Plunket) “that government would be ashamed for commencing so infamous a prosecution.”—I am here to observe, that I had repeatedly given this orthodox Divine, money for his poor, which I had collected as fines—I must not quit this excellent Clergyman until I advert to another trait of his character: not satisfied with his own efforts to injure me, he endeavoured to enlist the Dissenting, the Catholic and the Seceding Clergyman in his Corps.—The reader will excuse me for inserting the answers of these several gentlemen, to a circular letter I wrote them on the subject of Doctor Richardson's calling them as witnesses, “to prove my injustice, robbery and inhumanity.”—My letter called upon them in the name of that God whose divine doctrines they inculcated, to declare, either from their own knowledge, or from such reports as they deemed worthy of credit, whether my conduct was liable to impeachment, *upon the grounds of “tyranny and oppression, &c.”* also, whether, since my settlement in the country, I had not endeavoured, as far as in me lay, to promote obedience to the laws, loyalty to my prince, peace amongst the people, and afford charity and protection to the oppressed?

HERE follow in order the several replies—I am to observe, that the first mentioned of these Clergymen, I had then a very slight acquaintance with—I, since that period, have had much intercourse with him, and venture to affirm, his report will not tend to my discredit.

*The Dissenting Clergyman's Letter.**Benburb, January 23, 1807.*

“ WORTHY SIR,

“ JUST now I had the honour of receiving your favour of this Instant, and am sorry for the trouble you are likely to meet with—as to your applying to your own use, the fines you levied off the people in my neighbourhood, I am altogether a stranger to, but, on the contrary, believe that you always acted your part as a Magistrate, with fairness and impartiality.

And am, Sir, &c. &c.

JAMES WHITESIDE.”

Richard Wilson, Esq. Owna-Lodge.

The Seceding Clergyman's letter I did not immediately receive, as he had been absent for some days—two of his Elders called upon me to say, “ that they had learned the contents of my letter to their Clergyman, Mr. Bell, and that they came in his absence to say what they were persuaded he would give under his hand, (which he afterwards did in the most decided manner) “ *that they knew he had the highest opinion of me,*” that he had been applied to, to give evidence of the facts he was acquainted with, as to my misconduct, but had refused, knowing them to be unjust, that they well recollected my giving Mr. Bell a guinea, *out of my private purse,* when he and they had solicited assistance for the repairs of their place of worship, (a circumstance, which I protest to God, I did not recollect, 'till the Elders reminded me of it) *that the whole country had been applied to by Todd,* (an agent of the Doctor's in this reputable business) *Doctor Richardson himself,* and one Hughes, “ for the purpose of inducing people to swear against me;” but that, “ with very few exceptions (*and those of the worst characters*) they failed in their attempts.”—They further assured me, that “ *they were certain,* if I desired it, *not only their Clergyman, but all his congregation, would attend to do honour to my cha-*

racter, &c."—Mr. Bell's letter I have unluckily left in the country, however, I remember it was, if possible, more favourable than the declaration of his Elders, and was very severe on Doctor Richardson, "for presuming to mention his name in so infamous a transaction, &c."

The Roman Catholic Clergyman's answer (Mr. Quin) was as follows :

"EVER DEAR SIR,

"I AM extremely sorry my state of health prevented me from seeing you this day—I have attended to the contents of your note; I can testify that at the time of your levying the late fines, you gave me a paper to be published at Egglis Chapel; (I did the same at the other Meeting Houses) "stating, you had money for the well recommended poor."—I can also bear honorable testimony of your charity and benevolence, in as much as you frequently gave to the poor, through my hands, as well from fines levied, as also from your private purse.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

T. QUIN."

Richard Wilson, Esq.

Though not applied to, I received the following voluntary letter from *Doctor Richardson's Curate*—Mr. Riky :

"DEAR SIR,

"I HAVE heard with astonishment, that a prosecution has been commenced against you in the Court of King's Bench, "for levying fines for breaches of law, and applying them to your own use."—*This is an abominable slander*, for while I officiated as Curate of Clonfeele, (Mr. Riky is now Rector of Jonesborough) you have *more than once* given me money to divide amongst the poor, and I have often heard of your liberality, not only to the poor in your own neighbourhood, but even to the poor in this village, (he then resided in Moy) five miles distant from your house.

I am, &c.

W. RIKY."

January 25, 1807.

THE reader is now enabled to judge of the "*animus*," and "*ira inveterata*," which prompted this prosecution—let it be remembered that I *had repeatedly given Doctor Richardson himself, money for his poor*.—The prosecution terminated with my answer upon oath, and consequently to the discomfiture of the Reverend Doctor and his noble assistant; but it detained me in Dublin for a great length of time, and put me to a considerable expence—It would not be unworthy of *enquiry*, to find out whether Lord Manners' subsequent removal of me from the Magistracy, was occasioned by the suggestions of Doctor Richardson, and the noble Governor of the County? If it was, the learned Lord *could not* have been made acquainted with the effect of their charges in the preceding administration.—In justice to the learned Lord, one must form that opinion, or consider him as a wretched, peevish, bigotted, illiberal Orange Partizan—a character which his conduct since his residence in this kingdom, completely refutes.

I OMITTED, in the proper place, to advert to a matter which I conceive is of considerable importance—the traverse which was commenced against my presentment, was carried on by a public subscription of the Benburb yeomen; the paymaster of which Corps, retained the pay of the men for this avowed purpose—the same body afterwards raised another sum of money to defeat my ejection of a tenant, who kept possession of a farm for three years, of the value of £50 per annum, without paying one shilling of Rent, and who was notoriously a common beggar, *fitted out by the party with false certificates of his responsibility and good character*.—An Attorney of much celebrity in this line of his profession, undertook the cause, and after occasioning me great trouble and expence, by *three* attempts at a trial, at this very moment, *March 9, 1813*, threatens a *fourth* process against me!!!

I HAD thrown out some hints to government, of the infamous conduct of this body of yeomen, but, they being always disregarded, I addressed the Commander in Chief, then Lord Harrington, "upon the undisciplined state of the Benburb Corps, animadverting, too, upon the manner in which it was *officered*, being left entirely, almost, to the

controll of a low fellow of very indifferent character, &c. I received from that truly amiable nobleman, written by himself, not by some underling, the following answer:—I am to remark, that, I had no personal acquaintance with Lord Harrington.

Dublin, May 24, 1811.

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE many apologies to make for having so long deferred to acknowledge the receipt of a letter you did me the honour to write to me, on the 4th instant—the irregularities you mention to have prevailed in certain Yeomanry Corps, I am concerned to learn, *and more so, as it is totally out of my department to remedy them.*—The yeomanry establishment, except where any of that body are called out on permanent duty, is perfectly independent of my controul—I have actually nothing to do with it—it is under the exclusive authority of the government of the country, to which I take the liberty to suggest that all complaints in regard to abuses, in it, can alone, with prospect of success, be addressed.

I have the honor to be, &c.

HARRINGTON.”

Richard Wilson, Esq. Owna-Lodge.

THIS letter will shew, *amongst many other reasons*, that Lord Harrington was not *qualified* to retain a command in this country.—I took leave to return the *really noble Lord* my thanks for his letter, and to assure him that I had long before endeavoured to draw the attention of government to the disgraceful conduct of the Benburb yeomanry, and the vile fellow who governs it—’tis right to observe, that in justice to some individuals of that Corps, * they not only refused to lend their names or money to the subscription above mentioned, but generously declared, that “ they would rather subscribe to obtain *me justice* than deprive me of it, knowing as they did, how injuriously I had been treated, and scandalously robbed, &c.”

The following are the names of the protesting persons to the Subscription:—two brothers, called Hobbs, Wilson, Irvine, Brown, and two others whose names I do not recollect; which I confess I much regret.

I, THIS day, mean to return to my devastated abode, with an earnest wish, that I may hereafter live unnoticed and unmolested in it; if that wish can be attained, the public shall never more hear of me—not that my misfortunes have paralyzed my anxiety for the public welfare, but from a conviction that there is no probability of my being any way able to contribute to it; not only on account of the humility of my talents, but from the peculiar turn of my politics.—I never set out with the expectation of *possessing* popularity, *for I merely wished to merit it*—if my public life was worthy of being enquired into, this declaration would be confirmed by the issue—I make this remark by way of a general answer to the widely and long disseminated charge of my being actuated by a desire “to place myself at the head of a party;” if that was my wish, to be sure, no man ever took a more extraordinary mode of attaining it!—I refused even to undertake the journey, “to get myself replaced in my old seat in Parliament,” although assured by one of the Candidates, “that as to *my* return, there would be no opposition from any of them;” as a further confirmation of this, I never in my life was at any Catholic or other Meeting, one only excepted, when passing through Newry, I was prevailed upon, *as an obscure individual*, to listen to the debates—I never even dined at their public dinners, although I am to acknowledge that I received an invitation for the last Catholic entertainment, given in Dublin, also to the Newry dinner—in one word, except directing my name to be inserted in the Protestant Petition, in favor of the Catholics, I, in no way, took part in their objects, unless it was (as far as in my power) by ameliorating the condition of the lower orders, who sued to me for protection—and I own, with proud feeling, that I believe, many thousands of that description would risque their lives to prove their gratitude for my intended kindness towards them!

R. WILSON.

Dublin, March 9, 1813.

TO LORD MANNERS

“ MY LORD,

*“ THOUGH your Lordship’s neglect of my two last letters might justify my waving any farther appeal to your justice, yet, being determined not to leave it in the power of the most malignant perversion, to stigmatize my conduct, with a design to make, even the slightest addition, at this momentous epoch, to public agitation, I have resolved, once more, to attempt engaging your Lordship’s attention towards a request which every principle of justice and honour, as well as policy, ought to urge a compliance with—your Lordship will please to refer to my letters of the 23d of August last, and the the 29th of the month following.—Before I press the consideration of the object of the present application, I cannot refrain from adverting to the probable consequences which would have resulted from your Lordship’s compliance with that request; distinct from all my personal concerns in it—it would, most likely, have led to the prevention of two most atrocious murders committed in my neighbourhood, without even a charge of provocation! the persons murdered were a young woman and a young man, of most respectable and inoffensive characters! also, of several midnight robberies, attended with nearly the loss of the lives of the parties robbed—not one of the murderers or robbers are † even in custody.—But when I tell your Lordship that these murderers and robbers are yeomen, and members of that most damnable of all factions, you will not feel any surprize at their being at large.

“ HAD your Lordship applied to Mr. Bush, and instituted the enquiry as arising out of what appeared before

* This letter having been misled, prevented its insertion in its proper place—it ought to have been in page 54.—My hasty manner of writing has occasioned some omissions in this letter, but the original, in the possession of the learned Lord, enables his Lordship to supply them.

† I have already alluded to the persons who were murdered. Since this letter to Lord Manners was written, (in consequence of my making some public animadversions) one fellow was punished for the murders, by an imprisonment of THREE MONTHS; the robbers *never have been noticed* to this day!

that respectable gentleman, it would have been shewn, that the yeomen of one of the Corps alluded to above, entered into (with the exception I believe, of seven of them) a public subscription, *avowedly* for the purpose of defeating my claim *to less than the fiftieth part of my actual losses*, and suborned three of the prime monsters of this party, to give a testimony, which even a *packed jury* could not credit; although it so far complied with the views of its packer, as to decide against the verdict of the Grand Jury, (though not very much in my interest) which had means of knowlege of the facts, and which the Petit Jury had it not in its power to obtain! It would also have appeared, that the person who has for *several years* (*in defiance of a positive Act of Parliament*) been kept in the office of Under Sheriff for this County, had previously robbed me, to a great amount, under the colour of law, and by the power of office; and upon this last occasion, excited the indignation of the Solicitor General, on account of the part he had obviously taken to defeat my appeal to justice! Mr Bush's opinion, too, of the Jury, was pretty clearly expressed, by an indignant direction that "none of that jury should *again* be impannelled, in case he should require another."—But upon these points I shall not now dwell—I merely advert to them, in order (if your Lordship is not determined to put an extinguisher upon *all* my appeals for redress) to prepare your Lordship for a more detailed account.

"AND here, my Lord, I am to remark, that I am either grossly libelling certain people in office, or I am not; if the former, is it not your Lordship's bounden duty to bring me to punishment? If I *am not*, does not every principle of common sense, as well as common policy, demand a prompt and vigorous scrutiny into my charges? I shall now, my Lord, proceed to the original object of this application—if it does not succeed, I shall be compelled to resort to an appeal, which I have never made but when every other effort for redress failed—how unwillingly I shall adopt this alternative, let the God of truth (who can discover the most secret thoughts of the heart!) *punish me, if I do not wish to avoid it!* But my

Lord, the duty I owe to my own honour and consistency, will not permit me to stop short of obtaining, for my country at least, *justice!* 'tis all *it* or I (one of its meanest, but most faithful of its advocates) desire.—I never was, in or out of Parliament, a party man, or a supporter of measures which could tend towards the misleading the public mind; let me then, my Lord, implore you, and the government of which you are a prominent member, not to force me to a public exposition of the base treatment I have received, or the miserable state of this oppressed county.—Your Lordship can prevent it by a manly, wise and timely attention to the various communications I have made to your Lordship, as well as to the head of the Irish government.—I venture to predict, that humble and unimportant as I may appear to your Lordship, the day is not far distant when your friends will have cause to deplore their not pursuing the plan I early traced out to them.

I have the the honor to be, &c.

R. WILSON."

Oarna-Lodge,—December 1st, 1810.

POSTSCRIPT.

A CIRCUMSTANCE which took place a few days after my return to the country, will tend to prove that there is not to be any relaxation in my persecutions.—Some ornamental trees in my lawn, which had formerly escaped destruction, *merely on account of their being within gun shot of my windows*, were mutilated, and the gate of entrance broken to pieces! I have nearly positive proof of the persons who committed this recent outrage, but, having suffered formerly by these very persons, and having *proved the facts* against them, without being able to get

them punished, I hold it useless to attempt their conviction.

I AM, also to remark, that continued aggressions are committed against the wretched Roman Catholics, by their Orange neighbours.—A man, one Hughes, of respectable character, and much esteemed in his neighbourhood, by all classes, except the Orange one, a few nights since, had his house broken into by a set of armed men, with their faces blackened—he had previously received a letter, with a coffin marked upon it, “shewing him his fate in case he did not quit his place;” the man’s wife and children were thrown into fits, but they were not molested in their persons—there were about ten of them, armed with yeomen guns and bayonets, some with pistols, others with Sergeants swords, one with a pitch fork—they ransacked the house, and took, as the man tells me, “what they pleased.”—The man and his wife fell on their knees, and “implored them to spare the lives of their innocent children, &c.”—After some time they quitted the house, denouncing vengeance, “if the man did not immediately quit his place,” and “desired him, *on pain of his life*, not to look after them;”—they then went off, leaving a centinel at the door—some neighbours soon after coming past the house, relieved the wretched family.—The man shewed me a certificate of his character, signed by *all the Protestants* in his neighbourhood,—it is every way honourable to him.—The only reason he can assign for this attack is, that his wife keeps a little grocery shop, and there is an Orangeman in the neighbourhood, who keeps one also, but, which is not quite so much frequented—he himself is a schoolmaster—I find he has complained to a Magistrate.—Shortly before I left home, two other Roman Catholic families were broken in upon, pretty much in the same manner, and several shots fired into their houses; I heard there had been some bustle made about these attacks, *but I have not learned that any punishment followed*.—The very night before I left home, a servant of my own, and his brother, without even a word of altercation, were insulted “by damning the Pope, &c.” (the young men were Roman Catholics) and knocked down upon the public road, by some Orange yeomen! Since I am upon this subject, I must

observe, that three people were murdered in my neighbourhood, not long since, *without any sort of provocation, —I never heard of any of the murderers being punished except one, by an imprisonment of three months.*

IN the appendix I alluded to a letter of the Seceding Clergyman's, which I had left in the country; I have now found it, and think I do that gentleman and myself justice by publishing it, which I do *literally*.

Egglish,—February 11, 1807.

Richard Wilson, Esq.

“ SIR,

“ BEING from home some time, prevented my writing to you sooner; when I came home I had not your address,* but, fortunately, one of my hearers gave it to me, at divine worship, last Lord's day.

“ I AM heartily sorry to hear you are charged with any thing of a criminal nature; and that my name is used as a corroboration of these charges.—I assure you on the veracity of a Clergyman, if my name is in any paper against you, it is without my knowlege or consent.—No sir, *I have not any thing criminal to charge you with, on the contrary, I have much to say in your favour.*—About the latter end of November last, 1806, two of my hearers and I were talking together, when a Mr. James Todd, of Derrylittenee, come up to us, after some conversation, he the said James Todd, asked me if I had got any fine money from you, to distribute among the poor of my congregation, I replied not; he said Doctor Richardson,† had got none: Mr. Whiteside, Priest Quin,‡ had got none, and it was surprising what had become of it—he then requested me to sign a paper, that my own hand-writing might corroborate his testimony to DOCTOR RICHARDSON; that he was just on his way to Priest Quin, to get him to do the same.—I instantly

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* I was then in Dublin.

† I repeatedly had given the Reverend Doctor money for his poor.

‡ Vid. their Letters.

perceived that my neighbour Todd, must be a cat's paw for *some one* ; running through the country *courting the people* to state any thing they knew that might be ground of a charge against you—I suspected him the more readily as I had been informed *there were several sent out on the same base business before that* : so with the most perfect contempt I refused to sign any thing about the matter ; which I am happy to hear the gentleman who was present with me at the time, signified to you in my absence.

“ BUT I hope you will have the goodness to pardon my error ; which did not flow from any design to hurt you, or join your persecutors, but from the thoughtlessness of the moment.—I perfectly recollect being at your place with one of my hearers, looking a relief for my poor people ; and you did not send us empty away, but generously gave us a guinea ; at another time you voluntarily gave one half guinea for them, and how it came to escape my memory I know not, but so it actually did.

“ I AM indeed surprised to hear that any gentleman would take the liberty of mentioning or using my name without my knowlege.—I assure you sir, I never so much as saw the Reverend Doctor, that I know of, but once, that a ruling Elder and I went to ask a mite from him, for my poor people, who were in great distress ; but unfortunately for them *the Doctor's charity was not in exercise that day*.

“ I AM this day informed that you sent fine money to different Clergymen, to be divided according to the * denominations from whom the fines were levied—if any testimony of mine were of use to support your character : from every thing I know, I consider my duty in honour and conscience to give it.—*And as to the charge of your exercising your Magisterial office tyrannically, I never understood it from any credible information, and I live near*

* It appears that Mr. Bell's people were not deserving of having any fine levied upon them—any trifling benefactions which he is so good as to give me credit for, (and which I actually had forgot having given) were, of course, out of my private purse.

enough your place to hear the most of your procedure.—I always heard the people say, you administered justice very fairly.

Sir, I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

J. BELL,

Seceding Minister."

Richard Wilson, Esq. Dublin.

WAS I even so disposed, I believe it would be quite superfluous to make any comment upon the conduct of the Reverend Doctor Richardson, or his *duped* noble friend Lord Northland; or to suggest the probability that their representations went a great way towards influencing Lord Manners to remove me from the magistracy; both of these points I submit to the consideration of the public, nor presume to prejudge its opinion upon that learned Lord's candour and liberality towards me.

THIS being, I trust, the last time I shall ever be forced to introduce myself to public notice, I feel anxious to submit my political as well as moral character, to disquisition—I am perfectly aware of the unimportance of it, but, I hope I may stand excused for my anxiety not to have it misunderstood.—What I have to say upon this head (the latter I hope I have shewn, an *enquiry* into my private life, will decide to be, at least, harmless) shall be expressed in as few words as the nature of the subject (so as to be intelligent) will admit.

I SHALL commence by stating, what every person who has lived in habits of intimate intercourse with me, can prove, that from my earliest political thoughts, I have considered that a parliamentary reform was indispensably necessary for the preservation of the constitution—not one of those flimsy ones which I have seen recommended; calculated rather to amuse the people, than to prevent farther encroachments upon their rights; but, a sound radical reform, such an one as it *would be the interest of the representative to preserve, (or to speak more properly, not to leave it in his power, to betray) the confidence reposed in him; and*

such as *corruption itself could not influence*—this may be called an utopian attempt.—I would forfeit my existence, *if I did not prove such a reform to be practicable*—provided, *the reformers were in earnest*; which I frankly confess, *I believe, very few have been!*

ANOTHER point, of very great importance indeed, I early formed an opinion upon, which at the time, obtained me much censure from the courtly circle in which I then moved—I mean “our entering into war with France upon the late revolution;”—I deemed our interference to be exactly the opposite to what it was denominated—I thought and said, “we should elevate France by it, and in the same ratio, lower Great-Britain; whereas, did we preserve a strict neutrality, instead of *increasing* the burthens upon the people, we should considerably *decrease* them, &c.” that with regard to “the apprehension of *ill effects* from the French revolution, upon the people, we might be easy upon that score, provided we yielded to them what they had long solicited—a Parliamentary reform.—This would put it out of the power of the intriguer or demagogue, to disturb the tranquillity of the country; for a people, possessed of solid happiness, would never risk it for wild prospects of imaginary benefits; I also thought, and still do think, that, *our unfortunate interference overturned the Bourbon Dynasty, and brought Lewis the 16th to the scaffold.*—With regard to our conduct towards Spain and Denmark, and our renewal of the French war, *I ever viewed these measures as disgraceful to the character of the nation.*—The union I considered as a most infamous expedient to debase still lower the Irish people, and most cordially voted against it—I did more, for, *in private*, I urged its abandonment through a ministerial quarter, from whence I *knew* nothing ever emanated which had not honour and patriotism for its sources—but, that “quarter” was carried away upon this occasion, as well as some others, from its natural biass, through the influence of party connection.

As to the Catholic Question, my opinion upon that most momentous subject, is already clearly understood—indeed, it is *now* in a state which makes a discussion of it,

any where but in Parliament, indecorous—all, therefore, I will presume to say upon it is, that I *conceive the Catholics cannot give any farther "securities" than they have already given, without endangering their Religion; and if they consent to permit any infringement upon that, (which I do not believe they will) they certainly, in my mind, deserve to continue in the state of helotry they have ever been, since their first subjugation to the British sceptre.*

As the *events* have pretty well justified the above mentioned "opinions," I must, in candour, admit that I held others with regard to Russia and Sweden, which, *according to the present aspect of affairs, are erroneous—but, strange as it may appear, these "opinions" I still retain,* (persuaded as I am of the vast mind of the French Emperor, and the great resources of the nation he governs) I considered the defeat of Napoleon to be *solely* occasioned by the burning of Moscow, (horrible expedient!) and the severity of the climate; and declared, "that he would return in the spring to the Continent," (to use a phrase of my friend Lord Eldon's) "like a giant refreshed."—This opinion was strongly fortified, by the Emperor's reception in France, after his disastrous campaign—that reception proved, in my mind, that he was idolized by the French people, *spight of his conscriptions,* which are, I am persuaded, considered by the nation as well as himself, indispensably necessary for the attainment of their joint object, however, they may deplore that necessity.—To doubt the *official* accounts of the Russian successes, the *purity* of their new, old, ally, Prussia, would be offensive; but I may venture to insinuate, that the *novelty* of their successes may possibly have led to a *little exaggeration*: and as to the withdrawing the army from Spain, as is generally reported with great triumph, I own I hold that event as a mere *nothing* with respect to the ultimate object.—Napoleon may withdraw his troops from Spain for the purpose of strengthening the northern army, to insure his success; but when that is effected (*which I am obstinate enough to think will happen*) he will find very little difficulty in fixing, *permanently,* his brother on the Spanish throne.—His not having done so, *long since,* I

have no less confidence in believing, to be owing to that deep policy which has invariably marked his measures—his objects were to exhaust our treasures, waste our blood, and ruin our commerce—how far he has succeeded in these points, I leave it to the people of the united kingdom to pronounce.—As to the conduct of Bernadotte, I think it *possible* that he may hold it as a debt of gratitude due to his friend and patron, *to pay Prussia in its own coin*, and at a fit moment, shew his benefactor, that he is not the basest and most ungrateful of scoundrels, as well as the most consummate of Blockheads—for Napoleon's success would be the certain forerunner of his utter destruction.

THERE is another subject, which just now, occupies much of the public attention: it would not become one who has been so long retired from the world as I, to express any opinion upon it, except it be to say, that whilst I most cordially congratulate the amiable personage upon her happy prospects, I hope, and trust, her advisers will not permit matters to rest as they are *at present*; for, however satisfactory what has been done may be to the *present generation*, yet, I think much more should be obtained, in order to *annihilate* all possibility of doubt *in future times*.—It is not, I conceive, sufficient that *we* believe her accusers have been perjured—*we*, in justice to the Princess and *posterity*, ought to *prove them so*.

I now take leave of the public, with a most ardent wish that I may never again have occasion to bring myself before its tribunal—my dearest *personal* object is to spend the remainder of my life in obscure and *peaceful* retirement: in my most dissipated days, I always panted after a country life—with respect to the public (conscious that I have nothing but *will* to benefit it) I never desire to hear more of its concerns, than, *that they are conducted so as to insure its prosperity and happiness: if it gives me credit for the purity of my intentions, my humble efforts in its behalf are more than overpaid, and my calamities fully compensated*.

R. WILSON.

Owena-Lodge,—March 25, 1813.

Wilson, Richard

A sketch of the calamities and persecutions of Rich. Wilson

Dublin 1813

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